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The Howe System of Reading

The THOUGHT

Second Year
First Half



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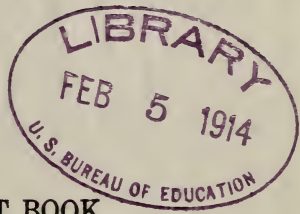
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✓ THE HOWE
SYSTEM OF TEACHING READING ✓

READING



SECOND YEAR. FIRST BOOK.

BY
W. W. HOWE ✓
FORMERLY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
AT WHITEHALL, N. Y.

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TO THE TEACHER.

The methods of the word and of the thought as applied in the work of the second year, are identically the same as was their application in the first grade. There is, therefore, nothing new to advance to the teacher, even in the way of suggestion. **Do the work exactly as it was done in the preceding year.**

The selections at the beginning are short and simple as compared with those at the close, while the opposite holds true with the vocabularies. The latter grow shorter and easier in progression. At the beginning, then, the word should be given precedence, as during the first half of the second year the pupils' growth in power over words is most rapid and decisive. With this increase of power comes a corresponding decrease in time and effort on the part of both pupil and teacher. This leads to a gradual reversal of the relative conditions governing the word and the thought, ultimately transferring the greater portion of the time to the latter.

In word analysis be governed by the single fundamental principle underlying the work of the first year—**analyze nothing but purely phonetic words.** There are words in plenty to supply material for **spelling lessons** in which the irregular words can easily be taught. In this also, employ the same methods as governed the teaching of irregular words in the first grade.

The word lists articulate perfectly with the reading matter, paragraph by paragraph. This enables the teacher to keep the class slightly ahead, in word recognition, of the work in reading, and as there are then no **new words**, the latter progresses easily without halt or friction.

The subject matter is perfectly free from the personality of the author of this series. It is a compilation of material that has descended through the successive generations that have intervened since the "Race was in its Childhood." It meets the demands of the childish mind, because it is the direct product of the times when the adults of the race thought and acted and lived like children.

It is simple, but the characteristics of its simplicity are those of ingenuousness rather than of silliness. It is full of fancy, having been chosen as such for the sake of the moral impulse it is capable of conveying, for as Wilman says, "The fancy is the only true road to the childish heart."

It appeals strongly to the child's interest not only because of the nature of the thought content, but of the child's **consciousness of the power to do**. The latter applies more directly to word acquisition, but is none the less potent, as the drudgery which has previously characterized the acquisition of vocabulary has been largely obviated by means of the strength of the underlying method.

Mental power is not a result of superficial method. To quote from Henry Ward Beecher—"The farmer owns no deeper than he can plow." At first it is **power through results**. Then as the mastery of words grows more and more nearly complete it becomes **results through power**.

Be very thorough!

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The Elves and the Shoemaker.

1. There was once a shoemaker who worked very hard and was very honest; but still he could not earn enough to live upon, and at last all he had in the world was gone, except just leather enough to make one pair of shoes. Then he cut them all ready to make up the next day, meaning to get up early in the morning to work. His mind was clear and his heart light amidst all his troubles; so he went to bed, left all his cares to heaven, and fell asleep.

2. In the morning, after he had said his prayers, he set himself down to his work, when, to his great wonder, there stood the shoes all ready made, upon the table. The good man knew not what to say or think of this strange event. He looked at the workmanship; there was not one false stitch in the whole job; and all was so neat and true, that it was a complete masterpiece.

3. That same day a customer came in, and the shoes pleased him so well that he willingly paid a price higher than usual for them; and the poor shoemaker with the money bought leather enough to make two pairs more. In the evening he cut out the work, and went to bed early that he might get up and begin betimes next day; but he was saved all the trouble, for when he got up in the morning the work was finished ready to his hand. Presently in came buyers, who paid him so well for his goods, that he bought leather enough for four pairs more. He cut out the work again over night, and found it finished in the morning as before; and so it went on for some time; what was made ready in the evening was always done by daybreak, and the good man soon became prosperous again.

4. One evening about Christmas time, as he and his wife were sitting over the fire chatting together, he said to her, "I should like to sit up and watch to-night, that we may see who it is that comes and does my work for me." The wife liked the thought; so they left a light burning, and hid themselves in a corner of the room behind a curtain that was hung up there, and watched what should happen.

5. As soon as it was midnight, there came two little naked dwarfs; and they sat themselves upon the shoemaker's bench, took up all the work that was cut out, and began to ply with their little

fingers, stitching and rapping and tapping away at such a rate, that the shoemaker was all amazement, and could not take his eyes off for a moment. And on they went till the job was quite done, and the shoes stood ready for use upon the table. This was long before daybreak; and then they bustled away as quick as a flash.

6. The next day the wife said to the shoemaker, "These little men have made us rich, and we ought to be thankful to them, and do them a good office in return. I am quite vexed to see them run about as they do; they have nothing upon their backs to keep off the cold. I will make each of them a shirt, and a coat and vest, and a pair of pants into the bargain; do you make each of them a little pair of shoes."

7. The thought pleased the good shoemaker very much; and one evening, when all the things were ready, they laid them on the table instead of the work they used to cut out, and then went and hid themselves to watch what the little elves would do. About midnight they came in, and were going to sit down to their work as usual; but when they saw the clothes lying for them, they laughed and were greatly delighted. Then they dressed themselves in the twinkling of an eye, and danced and capered and sprang about as merry as could be, till at last they danced out of the door over the green; and the shoemaker saw them no more; but everything went well with him from that time forward as long as he lived.

The Fox and the Ass. (Aesop)

An Ass, finding a Lion's skin, put it on, and ranged about the forest. The beasts fled in terror, and he was delighted at the success of his disguise. Meeting a Fox, he rushed upon him, and this time he tried to imitate as well the roaring of the Lion. "Ah," said the Fox, "if you had held your tongue I should have been deceived like the rest; but when you bray I know who you are."

The Goat and the Lion. (Aesop)

The Lion, seeing a Goat skipping about in high glee upon a steep, craggy rock, called to him to come down upon the green pasture where he stood, and where he could feed in much greater comfort. The Goat, who saw through the design of the Lion, replied,

"Many thanks for your advice, dear Lion, but I wonder whether you are thinking most of my comfort or how you would relish a nice morsel of Goats flesh."

The Frog-prince.

1. One fine day a young princess went into a wood, and sat down by the side of a cool spring of water. She had a golden ball in her hand, which was her dearest toy, and played at tossing it into the air and catching it again as it fell. After a time she threw it up so high that when she stretched out her hand to catch it, the ball bounded away and rolled along upon the ground, till at last it fell into the spring."

2. The princess looked into the spring after her ball; but it was very deep, so deep that she could not see the bottom of it. Then she began to lament her loss, and said, "Alas! if I could only get my ball again, I would give all my fine clothes and jewels, and everything that I have in the world." Whilst she was speaking, a frog put its head out of the water and said, "Princess, why do you weep so bitterly?" "Alas!" said she, "what can you do for me? My golden ball has fallen into the spring."

3. The frog said, "I want not your pearls and jewels and fine clothes; but if you will love me and let me live with you, and eat from your little golden plate, and sleep upon a mat at your door, I will bring you your ball again." "What nonsense," thought the princess, "this silly frog is talking! He can never get out of the well; however, he may be able to get my ball for me; and therefore I will promise him what he asks." So she said to the frog, "Well, if you will bring me my ball, I promise to do all you require."

4. Then the frog put his head down, and dived deep under the water; and after a little while he came up again, with the ball in his mouth, and threw it upon the ground. As soon as the young princess saw her ball, she ran to pick it up, and was so overjoyed to have it in her hand again, that she never thought of the frog, but ran home with it as fast as she could. The frog called after her, "Stay, princess, and take me with you as you promised;" but she did not stop to hear a word.

5. The next day, just as the princess had sat down to dinner,

she heard a strange noise, tap-tap, as if somebody was coming up the marble staircase; and soon afterwards somebody knocked gently at the door, and said,

“Open the door, my princess dear,
Open the door to thy true love here!
And mind the words that thou and I said
By the fountain cool in the greenwood shade.”

6. Then the princess ran to the door and opened it, and there she saw the frog, whom she had quite forgotten; she was greatly frightened, and shutting the door as fast as she could, came back to her seat. The king her father asked her what was the matter. “There is a nasty frog at the door,” said she, “who lifted my ball out of the spring this morning; I promised him that he should live with me here, thinking that he could never get out of the spring; but there he is at the door and wants to come in!” While she was speaking the frog knocked again at the door, and said,

“Open the door, my princess dear,
Open the door to thy true love here!
And mind the words that thou and I said
By the fountain cool in the greenwood shade.”

7. The king said to the young princess, “As you have made a promise, you must keep it; so go and let him in.” She did so, and the frog hopped into the room, and came up close to the table. “Pray lift me upon a chair,” said he to the princess, “and let me sit next to you.” As soon as she had done this, the frog said “Put your plate closer to me that I may eat out of it.”

8. This she did, and when he had eaten as much as he could, he said, “Now I am very tired; carry me up stairs and put me upon the mat at your door.” And the princess took him up in her hand and put him upon the mat, where he slept all night long. As soon as it was light he jumped up, hopped down stairs, and went out of the house. “Now,” thought the princess, “he is gone and I shall be troubled with him no more.”

9. But she was mistaken; for when night came again, she heard the same tapping at the door, and when she opened it, the frog came in and slept on the mat as before till the morning broke; and the third night he did the same; but when the princess arose on the following morning, she was astonished to see, instead of the

frog, a handsome prince gazing on her with the most beautiful eyes that ever were seen, and standing before her door.

10. He told her that he had been enchanted by a bad fairy who had changed him into the form of a frog, in which he was fated to remain until some princess should take him out of the spring and let him sleep before her door for three nights. "You," said the prince, "have broken this cruel charm, and now I have nothing to wish for but that you should go with me into my father's kingdom, where I will marry you, and love you as long as you live."

11. The young princess, you may be sure, was not long in giving her consent; and as they spoke, a splendid carriage drove up with eight beautiful horses decked with plumes of feathers and golden harness, and behind rode the prince's servant, the faithful Henry, who had bewailed the misfortune of his dear master so long and bitterly that his heart had well nigh burst. Then all set out full of joy for the prince's kingdom; where they arrived safely, and lived happily a great many years.

Mother Holly.

1. A widow had two daughters; one of them was very pretty and thrifty, but the other was ugly and idle. Odd as you may think it, she loved the ugly and idle one much the best, and the other was made to do all the work, and was in short quite the drudge of the whole house. Every day she had to sit on a bench by a well on the side of the road before the house, and spin so much that her fingers were quite sore, and at length the blood would come. Now it happened that once when her fingers had bled and the spindle was all bloody she dipped it into the well, and meant to wash it, but unluckily it fell from her hand and dropped in.

2. Then she ran crying to her mother, and told her what had happened; but she scolded her sharply, and said, "If you have been so silly as to let the spindle fall in, you must get it out again as well as you can." So the poor little girl went back to the well, and knew not how to begin, but in her sorrow threw herself into the water and sank down to the bottom senseless. In a short time, she seemed to wake as from a trance, and came to herself again; and when she opened her eyes and looked around, she saw she was in a

beautiful meadow, where the sun shone brightly, the birds sang sweetly on the boughs, and thousands of flowers sprang beneath her feet.

3. Then she rose up, and walked along this delightful meadow, and came to a pretty cottage by the side of a wood; and when she went in she saw an oven full of new bread baking, and the bread said, "Pull me out! pull me out! or I shall be burnt, for I am quite done enough." So she stepped up quickly and took it all out. Then she went on further, and came to a tree that was full of fine rosy-cheeked apples, and it said to her, "Shake me! shake me! we are all quite ripe!" So she shook the tree, and the apples fell down like a shower, until there were no more upon the tree.

4. Then she went on again, and at length came to a small cottage where an old woman was sitting at the door. The little girl would have run away, but the old woman called out after her, "Don't be frightened my dear child! stay with me, I should like to have you for my little maid, and if you do all the work in the house neatly you shall fare well; but take care to make my bed nicely, and shake it every morning out at the door, so that the feathers may fly, for then the good people below say it snows.—I am Mother Holly."

5. As the old woman spoke so kindly to her, the girl was willing to do as she said; so she went into her employ, and took care to do everything to please her, and always shook the bed well, so that she led a very quiet life with her, and every day had good meat both boiled and roast for dinner.

6. But when she had been some time with the old lady, she became sorrowful, and while she was much better off here than at home, still she had a longing for it, and at length said to her mistress, "I used to grieve at my troubles at home, but if they were all to come again, and I were sure of faring ever so well here, I could not stay any longer."

7. "You are right," said her mistress, "you shall do as you like; and as you have worked for me so well, I will myself show you the way back again." Then she took her by the hand, and led her behind the cottage, and opened a door, and as the girl stood under it, there fell a heavy shower of gold, so that she held out her apron and caught a great deal of it. And the fairy put a shining

golden dress over her, and said, "All this you shall have because you have behaved so well;" and she gave her back the spindle too which had fallen into the well, and led her out by another door. When it shut behind her, she found herself not far from her mother's house; and as she went into the court-yard the cock sat upon the well-curb and clapped his wings, and cried out,

"Cock a-doodle-doo!

Our golden lady's come home again."

8. Then she went into the house, and as she was so rich she was welcomed home. When her mother heard how she got these riches, she wanted to have the same luck for her ugly and idle daughter, so she too, was told to sit by the well and spin. That her spindle might be bloody, she pricked her fingers with it, and when that would not do, she thrust her hand into a thorn-bush. Then she threw it into the well and sprang in herself after it. Like her sister, she came to a beautiful meadow, and followed the same path.

9. When she came to the oven in the cottage, the bread called out as before, "Take me out! take me out! or I shall burn, I am quite done enough." But the lazy girl said, "A pretty story indeed! just as if I should dirty myself for you!" and went on her way. She soon came to the apple-tree that cried, "Shake me! shake me! for my apples are quite ripe!" But she answered, "I will take care how I do that, for one of you might fall upon my head;" so she went on.

10. At length she came to Mother Holly's house, and readily agreed to be her maid. The first day she behaved herself very well, and did what her mistress told her; for she thought of the gold she would give her; but the second day she began to be lazy, and the third still more so, for she would not get up in the morning early enough, and when she did she made the bed very badly, and did not shake it so that the feathers would fly out.

11. Mother Holly was soon tired of her, and turned her off; but the lazy girl was quite pleased at that, and thought to herself, "Now the golden rain will come." Then the fairy took her to the same door; but when she stood under it, instead of gold a great kettle full of dirty pitch came down upon her. "That is your wages," said Mother Holly as she shut the door upon her. So she went home quite black with the pitch, and as she came near her

mother's house the cock sat upon the well, and clapped his wings, and cried out—

“Cock a-doodle-doo
Our dirty girl's come home again!”

The Horse and the Stag. (Aesop)

The Horse having quarreled with the Stag, and being unable to revenge himself upon his enemy, came to a Man and begged his help. He allowed the Man to saddle and bridle him, and together they ran down the Stag and killed him. The Horse neighed with joy, and, thanking his rider warmly, asked him now to remove his saddle and let him go. “No, no,” said the Man; “you are much too useful to me as you are.” The Horse thenceforward served the Man, and found that he had gratified his revenge at the cost of his liberty.

The Oak and the Reeds. (Aesop)

A violent storm uprooted an Oak that grew on the bank of a river. The Oak drifted across the stream and lodged among some Reeds. Wondering to find these still standing, he could not help asking them how it was they had escaped the fury of a storm which had torn him up by the roots. “We bent our heads to the blast,” said they, “and it passed over us. You stood stiff and stubborn until you could stand no longer.”

The Lamb and the Fish.

1. There lived once a little brother and sister who were very fond of each other. Their own mother was dead, and they had a stepmother who did not love them at all, and tried secretly to injure them. It happened one day that the children were playing in a meadow near the house with several other children very happily. Through this meadow ran a stream of water, which passed one side of the house, and on its banks the children were singing:

2. ‘Enky Benky, that's the word,
Will you be my little bird?
Birdie a sugar-stick will give,
That will I to the good cook give;

The cook will give to me some milk;
The milk I will to the baker take,
And he will make me a sugar-cake;
The cake I shall then give to puss,
And she will quickly catch a mouse!
I shall hang it up in the house,
And then it is mine."

3. While singing this the children held hands and danced round in a circle; one, who stood in the middle, pointing with her finger to each child at each word, and when the word mine occurred the child who was pointed at ran from the circle, and the others had to run after him to catch him. As the children were thus amusing themselves, and chasing each other about merrily, the stepmother looked out of the window, and when she saw them so happy, envy rose in her heart, and in her spite she used her power of witchcraft, and changed them both; the boy into a fish, the girl into a lamb.

4. A sorrowful little fish might now be seen swimming about in the stream, while near its banks in the meadow stood a pretty little lamb, too sad to eat even a blade of grass. It happened not long after that the stepmother had visitors at her house, and she thought it would be a nice time to get rid of the children. So she called the cook, and told her to fetch the lamb from the meadow and the fish from the pond, and kill them to be cooked and eaten at the feast, and the woman promised to do so.

5. But when the lamb and the fish were brought into the kitchen and she took up a knife to kill them, the lamb—who was really the little sister—cried out:

"Ah! little brother in the sea,
Sadly my fond heart weeps for thee;
The cook is whetting the cruel knife
To take away my life."

Then the little fish answered:

"Ah! little sister, my heart is sad,
And, oh, my fate will be quite as bad,
Down in the deep, deep sea."

6. When the cook heard the lamb speak these sorrowful words, and the fish answer them, she knew they were not natural animals,

but some human beings whom her wicked mistress had bewitched. So she said: "Do not fear; I will not hurt either of you." So she fetched another lamb from the field and another fish from the brook, and prepared them for the visitors. She then took the bewitched lamb to a peasant's wife, and told her all about it. This woman had been a nurse to the little girl, and she seemed drawn towards the little lamb so tenderly that at last she took her to a wise woman and asked her advice.

7. Without hesitation the wise woman spoke some good words over the lamb and the fish, and at once the spell was broken, the children returned to their proper shapes, and went away together to a great forest, in which stood a small but very pretty house. Here they lived, although lonely, yet contented and happy, for the rest of their lives.

The Shipwreck.

1. I had not landed at Brazil long, before I found a home with a good honest man, who had a plantation and a house in which to grind sugar-cane. I lived with him for some time, and came to know how to plant and make sugar; and seeing how well the planters lived and how quickly they became rich, I made up my mind to turn planter also, so purchased all the land I could with the money I then had.

2. I had a neighbor by the name of Wells who had much the same sort of farm as I. I call him my neighbor, because his place lay next to mine and we got along very nicely together. One was about as poor as the other, as we both had but few tools and but little stock with which to work. Indeed, for two years we could plant just enough to keep us in food and no more.

3. The third year, however, and with much labor, we got our land ready, so that we not only planted some tobacco, but had for each of us a large piece of ground on which to plant sugar-cane. This made a large amount of work, and we both found that we needed much help. I then bought me a black slave, and engaged a white servant.

4. In the meantime I had come to know a number of planters who were my neighbors and who knew the same troubles as I.

They had plenty of land, but had very little help to do their work. We often made visits to each other's homes, and while thus together I had told them of two trips I had made across the sea where we found men who would not only sell gold and all kinds of costly things for such cheap goods as beads, toys, pieces of glass and the like, but they also sold men and women in great numbers to be taken away as slaves.

5. One morning some of these friends came and talked with me about my going after a cargo of these negro slaves. They agreed to furnish the ship and crew, and to take the best of care of my farm while I was away. It was also said that I should have an equal share of the slaves without having to pay any part of the money needed for the trip. I failed to give the matter the thought I should, but told them at once that I would go. I never thought of the poor slaves, and whether it were right in the eyes of God to bring them away from their homes and make them work all their lives, living but little better than our horses and cattle, never to be happy or to enjoy life as human beings should.

6. But God is wise and takes means to punish the sins of men in ways on which they little reckon. Nobody knew better than I that the course I was then planning was far from right and deserved His wrath and punishment. So I cannot but see, now that I have a better understanding of the rights of others, that the end with which I did meet was one that was directly from him, and which I did but justly merit.

7. Our ship was quite large, and had a crew of fourteen men, besides the captain, his boy and myself. We had on board no large cargo of goods, except such as were fit for our trade with the negroes, such as beads, small looking-glasses, knives, scissors, shells and the like. She was soon loaded and the same day that I went on board, we set sail and started across the sea toward the land of the black men.

8. At first we had quite good weather, only it was very hot. This lasted about ten days, when a violent storm arose which blew us far from our course; it began from the south-east, came about to the north-west, and then to the north-east from whence it blew so hard that for twelve days we could only drive or scud away from it, letting it take us whither fate or the fury of the waves willed. I

need not say that in all these twelve days there was not one moment when I did not expect to go to the bottom of the sea, nor indeed was there any in the ship who did hope that we would save our lives.

9. Besides the fear of the storm, one man died and another man and the boy were washed overboard; which but made our distress the greater, as we did not know what moment we would have to go also. But on the twelfth day the storm began to abate and the waves to run less high. This gave us a little time to collect ourselves, but not long. A second storm soon arose which was even worse than the first.

10. This drove us to the west very swiftly, and while the wind was still blowing hard, one of our men early in the morning cried out, "Land." We ran out of the cabin to see what it was, when the ship struck with great force on a sand-bar, and stopped. As soon as she came to a standstill the waves began to break all over her in such a manner that we all expected to be swept overboard, so we at once returned to the cabins to shelter us from the foam and spray of the sea.

11. It is not easy for one who has never been to sea to tell or even know the feelings of men in such a place; we knew not where we were or upon what land we had been driven, whether an island or the mainland; and as the force of the wind was still very great, we could not so much as hope that the ship could hold many moments without going to pieces, unless the gale should in a very short time abate.

12. In a word we sat looking at each other, and expecting death every moment, and every man began to prepare to go to another world, for there seemed little left to do in this; there was one and only one comfort left us, and that was that the ship did not break up yet, and the wind did seem to begin to abate.

13. Now though the wind did not seem to blow so hard as before, yet the ship being stuck on the sand and sticking too fast for us to expect her getting off, we were in bad shape indeed, and had nothing to do but to think of saving our lives as well as we could; we at first had a boat at the stern of the ship, but she was first broken by the waves and then torn away and either sunk or was driven to sea, so there was no hope from her; there was another

boat on board, but how to get her off into the water, was hard to see; there was no time to debate, however, for we expected to see the ship in pieces at any time.

14. In this distress, one of the men laid hold of the boat and with the help of the rest, they got her over the ship's side, and all getting into her, we let go and did but commit ourselves, fourteen in number, to God's mercy and the wild sea. And now our case was very dismal indeed; for while the wind had gone down very much, yet the waves went so high that we saw very plainly that no boat could live and that we all should be lost.

15. We could make no sail for we had none, so we pulled at the oars toward the land but with heavy hearts, for we all knew that when the boat came to the shore she would be dashed into a thousand pieces. What the shore was, whether rock or sand, steep or shoal, we knew not; our only hope was that we might happen to find some bay or the mouth of some river into which we might have run our boat and thus have found safety. But we could see nothing of this sort, and as we came nearer and nearer the shore, the less did we hope to find shelter.

16. After a time, a huge wave came rolling, mountain-like, towards us, and plainly we could see the end near. In a word, it upset the boat at once, and parting us as well from the boat as from one another, gave us not time hardly to say mercy, before we were all left to struggle with the waves.

17. Nothing can tell what I thought or felt when I sank into the water; for, while I could swim very well, yet I could not rise in the waves so as to draw breath, till the wave had driven me a vast way on towards the shore, and having spent itself, went back, and left me upon the land, half dead with the water I took in. I had so much presence of mind left as well as breath, that, seeing myself nearer the land than I expected, I got upon my feet and ran on towards the land as fast as I could, before another wave should come and take me up again.

18. I soon found that I could not avoid it, for I saw the sea come after me as high as a great hill, and with a force with which I had no means or strength to contend; my part was to hold my breath and raise myself upon the water, if I could; my greatest aim being, that the sea, as it came in would carry me a great way

towards the shore, and to take care that it might not carry me back again with it when again it began to flow back.

19. The next wave that came upon me covered me with twenty or thirty feet of water; and I could feel myself carried on with great force and swiftness towards the shore a very great way; but I held my breath and helped myself to swim with all my might. I was ready to burst with holding my breath, when I felt myself rising up. I found my head and hands shoot out above the surface of the water; and while it was not two seconds of time that I could keep myself so, yet it gave me a good long breath of fresh air.

20. I was covered again with water a good while, yet not so long but I held out; and finding the water had spent itself, and begun to return, I swam forward until I felt ground again with my feet. I stood still a few moments to get my breath, and till the water went from me, and then took to my heels and ran with what strength I had, farther towards the shore. But this did not deliver me from the fury of the sea, which came in after me and twice more was I lifted up by the waves, and carried forward as before, the shore being very flat.

21. The last time of these two came near killing me, for the sea landed me on, or rather dashed me against a piece of rock. The blow being on my side and breast, beat the breath, as it were, quite out of my body; and had it returned again at once, I must have been drowned; but as the waves were not now so high as before, being nearer land, I held my breath till the wave went back, then ran again.

22. This brought me so near the shore, that the next wave, though it went over me, did not so swallow me up as to carry me away. The next and last run got me to the mainland, where to my great comfort, I climbed up the cliffs of the shore and set me down upon the grass, free from danger, and quite out of the reach of the water.

The Donkey's Skin.

1. There once lived a king and queen, who had riches and everything they wished for except a little child, and at last this wish was also granted to them, and a little prince was born into the world. Now, the queen had once offended a wicked witch, and

she by her witchcraft altered the baby's face till it looked like a donkey's and was so ugly that the mother, when she saw it, was quite frightened; she even wanted to have it thrown into the water and drowned, for she said it was only fit to be food for fishes.

2. But the king said, "No. Ugly as the child is he is my son, and after my death this kingdom and my crown will be his." So the ugly little child was taken care of, and grew up healthy and strong, and not so very frightful after all, although he had such large ears. He was a lively, good-tempered little fellow—jumping and running here and there like a squirrel. But the most remarkable of his tastes was a love of music, and when he grew old enough he went to a first-rate professor, and asked to be taught to play on the lute.

3. Now, too bad as it may seem, one of the young prince's defects was the form of his fingers, and the professor of music said to him: "My lord prince, I fear I could never teach you to play the lute; your fingers are too thick and clumsy." The boy, however, was not to be daunted, and he persisted with so much determination that he soon played as well as his master. As he grew older he began to think of his personal appearance, and one day, happening to notice his looks in the glass, he became very sad and miserable at finding himself so ugly. He determined, therefore to leave home, and go out into the world with only one faithful companion.

4. After traveling about for some time they came at last to a country the king of which was a powerful monarch who had an only daughter, a most beautiful maiden. "We will stay here for a while," said the ugly prince. So he knocked at the door of the king's castle, and cried: "Here is a visitor outside; open and let him in!" But the gates were not opened; and then the prince seated himself on the steps, took out his lute, and began to play in the most delightful manner.

5. On hearing the music the guard looked out, and seeing the player, whose face was so like a donkey, he ran to the king and told him that there was a strange animal before the door playing most beautiful music. "Let him come in," said the king. But as soon as he appeared every one began to laugh, and some of them told him to sit with the servants. "No, indeed," he said; "I may

be ugly, but I am nobly born." "Well, then, take your place among the soldiers." But to this he would not consent, and exclaimed; "I mean to sit by the king!"

6. On hearing this the king laughed, and said with great good nature, "So you shall, if you wish it; come here by me."

After a while the king said to him: "Well, how do you like my daughter?"

The ugly prince turned and looked at her earnestly; then he nodded his head, and said, "Very much indeed! She is the most beautiful maiden I ever saw in my life." "Well, then, you shall sit by her side if you will."

7. "That will be my right place," he replied, seating himself by the princess; and he treated her so kindly and politely that she quite forgot how ugly he was, and began to like him very much. They kept him at the castle for some time, till he said to himself at last: "What is the use of staying here? I may as well go home." But the thought of leaving the princess made him look very sorrowful when he went to bid the king farewell.

8. He had by this time, however, won the love of the king, who said to him: "Why, my friend, you look as sour as a vinegar cruet! Why do you wish to go away? Stay with me and I will give you whatever you wish. Will you have money?"

"No," he replied, shaking his head.

"Do you want jewels or trinkets?"

"Oh, no!"

"Shall I give you half of my kingdom, then, to keep you here?"

"No, oh, no!" he cried earnestly.

"I wish I knew what would really content you," said the king, who then exclaimed, "ah, perhaps you want to marry my beautiful daughter?"

9. What a change came over the ugly face as the young prince said, "Ah, yes; that is all I crave, if I only thought she could love me."

But there seemed no doubt of this, for the wonderful music and the gentle ways of the high-born prince had made the princess quite forget his ugliness. So the marriage was celebrated with great pomp and splendor; and at the wedding, instead of an ugly bridegroom, with the face and long ears of a donkey, there stood

before them a handsome young prince.

10. When it came time for the bridal, a good fairy—who had known about the wicked fairy and her cruel witchcraft which had so disfigured the king's son—came and touched him with her wand; the donkey's skin at once fell off, and he was restored to his natural shape and form. The young princess was glad to think that she had loved him for his good qualities alone. The king, however, could scarcely believe him to be the same till he showed him the donkey's skin which had fallen off at the touch of the fairy's wand.

11. The king quickly ordered a large fire to be lighted, into which he threw the skin and watched it till it was burned to ashes. There was great joy in the whole household after this, and the king gave to his son-in-law the government over half his kingdom, and at his death he became king. In a short time his own father died, and so he was king of both countries, and he and his queen lived in great happiness and splendor. It is better, therefore, to be good than handsome.

The Sheep and the Dog.

The Sheep one day complained to the Shepherd that while they were shorn of their fleece, and their young ones often taken and killed for food, they received nothing in return but the green grass of the earth, which grew of itself, and cost him no pains to procure. "On the other hand, your Dog," said they, "which gives no wool, and is of no use for food, is petted and fed with as good meat as his master." "Peace, bleating simpletons!" replied the Dog, who overheard them; "were it not that I look after and watch you, and keep off wolves and thieves, small good would be to you, your herbage or anything else."

The Gardener and his Dog.

A Gardener's Dog, frisking about the brink of a well in the garden, happened to fall in. The Gardener very quickly ran to his assistance, but as he was trying to help him out, the cur bit him on the hand. The man, annoyed at what he considered such ungrate-

ful behavior towards one whose only aim was to save his life, came away and left the dog to drown.

The Spindle, the Needle, and the Shuttle.

1. A young girl who had lost both parents in her infancy lived in a little cottage at the end of the village with an old woman, who took care of her and brought her up to be industrious and pious. The maiden earned enough by spinning to support herself and the old woman. When she was in her seventeenth year the old woman fell sick, and one day called her to her bedside, and said to her, "Dear child, I feel that my end is near, so I will leave you this cottage and all that is in it. Here you will have shelter from wind and weather; and with the needle, the spindle, and the shuttle you can easily earn your bread."

2. Then, laying her hand on the maiden's head, she blessed her, and said, "Keep God always in your heart, and you will never grow wrong."

Not many days after this the old woman closed her eyes and died, and the poor girl followed her to the grave, behind the coffin, weeping bitterly. After this the maiden lived in the little cottage quite alone, working at her spinning and weaving, and the blessing of the old woman seemed to rest upon all she did.

3. It was as if the flax in the room would never be at an end; and no sooner had she finished weaving a piece of cloth or carpet, or had made a shirt, than a purchaser was quickly found who paid her well; so she had as much as she needed for all her wants, and a little also to spare for the poor.

It happened about this time that the son of the king of the country started on his travels to find a bride. The prince could choose for himself, excepting that his wife must not be poor, and he did not care for riches. So he decided in his heart that he would try and find one who was at the same time both the richest and the poorest.

4. When he came to the village near which the maiden dwelt,

he inquired first for the richest maiden in the place, and on being told he then asked, "And which is the poorest?"

"The poorest is a maiden who lives at the end of the village in a little cottage alone," was the ready reply. "Her cottage is easily found, for a winding path through a field leads to it." The prince in going to this cottage rode through the village, and at the door of a stately house sat a maiden richly dressed, and as the king's son came near she went out and bowed herself before him in a most courtly manner.

5. The prince looked at her, but he said not a word; and rode on without stopping till he arrived at the house of the poor maiden. She, however, was not seated at the door, but in her own little room busily at work. The prince drew rein, alighted from his horse, and peeped into the neat apartment. Just at that moment a ray of sunshine darted through the window and lighted up everything within, so that he could see the maiden spinning at her wheel with the most earnest diligence.

6. Presently she glanced up, and seeing a noble-looking gentleman looking at her through the window, she cast down her eyes but kept on with her spinning, while her cheeks were covered with a rosy blush. Whether the threads were even and regular at that moment we cannot say; but she continued to spin without looking up again till the prince remounted his horse and rode away.

7. Then she rose and opened the window, saying to herself, "How very warm the room is to-day!" But she looked out and watched the stranger till she could no longer see the white plume on his hat, and not till after he was quite out of sight did she return to her spinning wheel and work as busily as ever. Her thoughts were now on the handsome prince, although she knew not who he was; still it was such an unusual event for a gentleman to look in at the window of her lonely cottage that she could not forget it.

8. At last strange ideas came into her head, and she began to sing some curious words which the old woman had taught her:

"Spindle, spindle, run away;
Fetch my lover here to-day!"

To her amazement the spindle leaped from her hands that very moment and rushed out of the house. She followed to the door, and stood looking after it with wondering eyes, for

it was running and dancing quite merrily across the field, trailing behind it a bright golden thread, and presently it was lost to her eyes.

9. Having no longer a spindle she took up her shuttle, seated herself and began weaving. The spindle, meanwhile, kept on its way, and just as the thread came to an end it overtook the prince.

"What do I see," he cried. "The thread behind this spindle will lead me to good fortune, no doubt." So he turned his horse and rode back on the trail of the golden thread.

The maiden, who still worked on, thought presently of another of the rhymes taught her by the old woman, so she sang:

"Shuttle, shuttle, thou art free;
Bring my lover back to me!"

10. Instantly the shuttle slipped from her hand and ran to the door, but on the door-sill it stopped and began to weave the most beautiful carpet ever seen. In the center, on a golden ground, appeared a green creeping plant, and around it blush roses and white lilies were scattered. Hares and rabbits appeared running on it; stags and deer stood beneath the foliage, in which were birds of beautiful colors which seemed to be able to do everything but sing. The shuttle sprang here and there, and the carpet seemed to grow of itself.

11. As the maiden had now lost both spindle and shuttle, she was obliged to take out her needle, and while she sewed she sang:

"Needle, needle, while you shine,
Make the house look neat and fine!"

On this the needle sprang from her fingers and flew about the room as quick as lightning. It was just as if a number of invisible spirits were at work, for the table and benches were quickly covered with green cloth, the chairs with velvet, and curtains of silk damask were hung to the windows and walls.

12. Scarcely had the needle finished the last stitch than the maiden saw through the window the white plume on the prince's hat; for he had followed carefully the golden thread till it reached her cottage. He alighted from his horse, and quickly stepped in upon the beautiful carpet; when he entered the room he saw the maiden, who even in her homely dress looked blooming and lovely as a wild rose.

13. "You are exactly what I seek," he said; "at once the poorest and the richest maiden in the world. Will you come with me and be my bride?"

She did not speak, but held out her hand to him. He kissed the hand she offered, led her out, lifted her upon his horse, and rode away with her to his father's castle. The marriage was shortly after celebrated with great splendor and rejoicing. The needle, the spindle and the shuttle were preserved in the treasure chamber ever after with great honor.

What Robinson Then Did.

1. I was now landed and safe on shore, and began to look up and thank God that my life was saved. It hardly seemed true that I could be alive, when it had been so few moments since there had been so little room to hope. I do not believe that any person can express his real feelings on being saved, as it were, out of the very grave. I walked about on the shore, lifting up my hands, and my whole being, as I may say, wrapped up in my escape from death.

2. I thought of all my comrades, and that there was not one soul saved but myself; for, as for them, I never saw them afterwards, or any sign of them, except three of their hats, one cap, and two shoes that were not mates. I cast my eyes to the ship, when there was so much spray and froth of the sea, that I could hardly see it, it was so far off, and was filled with wonder that I could get from it to the shore.

3. I then began to look about me to see what kind of place I was in, and what was next to be done, and soon found that I was not as well off as I had thought; for I was wet, had no clothes to change, nor anything to eat or drink to comfort me; I could see no prospect before me, but of starving or being killed by wild beasts, and what was still less to my peace of mind, I had no gun either to hunt or kill any animal to eat, or to defend myself against any beast that might desire to kill me.

4. In a word, I had nothing about me but a knife, a tobacco-pipe and a little tobacco in a box. Night coming upon me I began with a heavy heart to think what would be my lot if there were any wild animals in that country, seeing that at night they always come

out for their prey. I saw a thick, bushy tree, quite covered with thorns, which grew near by. This gave the best promise of shelter, so I thought it wise to spend the night in it. Being thirsty, I walked about to see if I could find any fresh water to drink, which I did to my great joy.

5. I drank my fill of the water which was cool and of a good taste, then went to the tree, and getting into it, placed myself so as, that if I should sleep I might not fall, and having cut me a short stout stick for my defense, I took up my lodging and fell fast asleep, and sleeping as well as any could have done in my place, awoke feeling well rested.

6. It was broad day, the weather was clear, and the storm was gone. The sea did not rage and swell as before. It was a great surprise to me to see that when the tide arose, it had lifted the ship and brought her up almost as far as the rock against which I had been dashed when I made my escape from the wreck. This was only about a mile from the shore. I now wished myself on board, as I knew there were so many things on her that could be of great use to me.

7. When I came down from the tree I looked about me again and the first thing I saw was the boat, which lay as the wind and the waves had driven her up upon the land, about two miles on my right hand. I walked as far as I could along the shore to get her, but found an inlet of water between me and the boat which was at least half a mile broad, so, as I was very hungry, I turned back for the present, being more intent upon getting at the ship, where I knew there was something for me to eat.

8. A little after noon, I found the sea very calm and the tide gone so far out, that I could walk within a quarter of a mile of the ship. When I had gone that far, I pulled off my clothes, for the day was very hot, and took to the water. When I came to the ship, I swam round her until I found a piece of rope hanging down within my reach. By the help of this, I reached the deck. Here I found that she so lay on the side of a bank of hard sand, that her stern lay lifted up upon the bank and her head low almost to the water.

9. By this means, all that was in the stern was dry, for you may be sure that my first work was to search and to see what was

spoiled and what was not; first I found that all the ship's food was dry and not harmed by the water, so being very hungry, I went to the bread-room and filled my pockets with biscuit. This I ate as I went about other things, as I had no time to lose. Now I wanted nothing so much as a boat with which to carry to the shore the many things which I soon saw would be very needful to me.

10. It was in vain to sit still and wish for what was not to be had, so I soon thought out a plan. There were many large timbers or beams, also plenty of boards in the wreck. I at once fell to work with these, and flung overboard those that were not too heavy for me to handle alone, tying each one with a rope that they may not float away; when this was done, I went down the ship's side and pulling them to me, tied them together at their ends as well as I could, in the form of a raft.

11. I then laid two or three short pieces of plank upon them crossways, and found that I could walk upon it very well, but that it would bear no very great burden, the pieces being too light; so I went to work with a carpenter's saw, and cut away planks enough from the ship, which I added to the raft. My raft was now strong enough to carry a good load, so my next care was with what to load it, and how to preserve what I had laid upon it from the wash of the sea.

12. After having thought well as to what I most wanted, I first got three of the seamen's chests, and fastened them securely on the raft. These I at first filled with food. There were bread, rice, dutch cheeses, pieces of dried goat's flesh, and some corn, which had been laid by for some fowls which we brought to sea with us, but which had been killed before it had been all eaten. There had also been some barley and wheat, but I found to my sorrow that the rats had eaten or spoiled it all. I found clothes in plenty, carpenter's tools, guns, powder, shot, and two rusty old swords.

13. The raft being now well-loaded with a cargo of great value to me, I now started for shore. The wind was blowing in to the land, and the tide was also with me so I got along very well. I saw before me a little opening in the land, and found a strong current of the tide running into it, so I steered my raft as well as I could to keep in the middle of the stream. The raft floated on and on, till at length I found myself in the mouth of a little river,

with land on both sides and a strong current or tide running up. I looked on both sides for a proper place to get on shore, for I was not willing to be driven so far up the river, that I could not see a ship at sea should one appear.

14. At length I found a little cove on the right shore of the river, into which I sent the raft. There was a flat piece of ground over which the tide flowed, and upon which I thrust the raft. Soon the tide went back and left raft and cargo safe on shore. I made her fast with two broken oars, which I stuck into the ground one at one end and the other at the other end. This I did that in case the tide arose while I was away, the raft would not float away.

15. My next work was to look about the country and seek a good place to live, and where to stow my goods to secure them from whatever might happen. Where I was, I knew not, whether on the mainland or an island, and whether in danger of wild beasts or not. There was a hill not more than a mile from me, which was very steep and very high, and which seemed to be higher than some other hills which lay as in a ridge from it to the north.

16. I took out one of the guns and a pistol and thus armed I went up to the top of that hill where I saw that I was on an island. No other land was to be seen except some rocks which lay a great way off, and two small islands less than this which lay about ten miles to the west.

17. I saw also that this part of the island was barren, and also could see no animals. There were many fowls but I knew not their kinds, neither when I killed them could I tell what was fit for food and what not; at my coming back, I shot at a great bird which was sitting on a tree on the side of a great wood. I believe it was the first gun that had been fired there since the world began, for I had no sooner fired than there arose a great number of birds of many sorts, but not one of them of any kind that I knew.

18. After this I came back to my raft, and fell to work to bring my cargo on shore, which took me the rest of the day. What to do with myself at night, I knew not nor indeed where to rest; for I was afraid to lie down on the ground, not knowing but some wild beast might devour me, though as I afterwards found there was really no need for those fears. As night came on, I piled myself

round with the chests and boards that I had brought on shore, and made a kind of hut for the night; as for food, I yet saw not which way to supply myself, except as I had seen two or three animals like hares run out of the woods when I shot the fowl.

19. As I knew that the first storm that blew must break the ship all in pieces, and that yet I might get a great many things out of her that would be useful to me, so I set all other things apart until I could get everything out that I could get. As the raft was very heavy and hard to handle, I went as before when the tide was down and made another and a lighter raft, which, while I could not move so large a cargo, was large enough to carry anything that I could move.

20. In my second cargo, I had a sail from which I made a small tent, using some poles which I had cut for the purpose. Into this tent I brought all that I knew would spoil either with rain or sun, and I piled all the empty chests and casks up in a circle round it to defend it from any sudden attempt either from man or beast. When I had done this, I blocked up the door with some boards within, and spreading one of the beds from the ship upon the ground, laying two pistols at my head and a gun by my side, I went to bed for the first time and slept very quietly all night,

21. The night before I had slept very little in the tree, and had worked very hard all day, as well to fetch all those things from the ship, as to get them on shore. So I was very weary and quite ready to sleep. Every day at low water, I went on board and never failed to bring away a load of something or other.

22. The storm which was the means of my being in this place, seemed to have blown itself out, as we had nearly three weeks of fine weather. Day after day I went to the ship and always had wind and tide with me, when I started to come back with a load. I could not, however, yet see any kindness from Heaven in all this. Still too selfish to think of anything beyond myself, I was yet to receive many a stern lesson, before I could learn that God rules over all.

The Mastiff and the Curs.

It happened one day, as a stout and honest Mastiff, that guard-

ed the village where he lived against thieves and robbers, was very gravely walking with one of his puppies by his side. All the little dogs in the street gathered about him and barked at him. The puppy was so enraged at this affront done to his sire that he asked him why he did not fall upon them and tear them to pieces. To which the sire answered with great composure of mind: "If there were no curs, I should be no mastiff."

The Two Rats. (Aesop)

A cunning old Rat found in his rounds a most tempting piece of cheese, which was placed in a trap. But being well aware that if he touched it he would be caught in the trap, he falsely went to one of the young rats, and under the mask of friendship, told him of the prize, which he said he could not enjoy as he had just swallowed a hearty meal. The foolish young rat thanked him with gratitude for the news, and heedlessly sprang upon the tempting bait; on which the trap closed and instantly killed him. His faithless friend being now quite secure, quietly ate up the cheese.

Little Tuppen. (Scandinavian)

1. One day an old hen whose name was Cluck-cluck went into the wood with her little chicken, Tuppen, to get some blueberries to eat. But a berry stuck fast in the little one's throat, and he fell to the ground, choking and gasping. Cluck-cluck in great fright, ran to fetch some water for him. She came to the spring and said: "My dear spring, pray give me some water; the water I will give to Tuppen, my child, that lies for dead in the wood.

2. The spring answered: "Thou wilt get no water from me till I get leaves from thee." Then the hen ran to the oak-tree, and said: "My dear oak-tree, pray give me some leaves; the leaves I will give to the spring, the spring will give me water; the water I will give to Tuppen, my chick, that lies for dead in the wood." "Thou wilt get no leaves from me until I get red gold ribbons from thee," answered the oak-tree. So poor Cluck-cluck ran to the house of a good woman and said: "My dear good woman, pray give me some red gold ribbons; the red gold ribbons I will give to the

oak-tree, the oak-tree will give me leaves; the leaves I will give to the spring, the spring will give me water; the water I will give to Tuppen, my chick, that lies for dead in the wood."

3. "Thou wilt get no red gold ribbons from me, until I get shoes from thee," answered the good woman. So the hen ran to the shoemaker: "Dear shoemaker, pray give me shoes; the shoes I will give to the good woman, the good woman will give me red gold ribbons; the red gold ribbons I will give to the oak-tree, the oak-tree will give me leaves; the leaves I will give to the spring, the spring will give me water; the water I will give to Tuppen, my chick, that lies for dead in the wood."

4. "Thou wilt get no shoes from me, till I get some bristles from thee," answered the shoemaker. So the hen ran to the pig: "My dear pig, pray give me some bristles; the bristles I will give to the shoemaker, the shoemaker will give me some shoes; the shoes I will give to the good woman, the good woman will give me some red gold ribbons; the red gold ribbons I will give to the oak-tree, the oak-tree will give me leaves; the leaves I will give to the spring, the spring will give me water; the water I will give to Tuppen, my chick, that lies for dead in the wood."

5. "Thou wilt get no bristles from me, until I get corn from thee," answered the pig. So the poor hen ran to the farmer, and said: "My dear farmer, pray give me some corn; the corn I will give to the pig, the pig will give me bristles; the bristles I will give to the shoemaker, the shoemaker will give me shoes; the shoes I will give to the good woman, the good woman will give me red gold ribbons; the red gold ribbons I will give to the oak-tree, the oak-tree will give me leaves; the leaves I will give to the spring, the spring will give me water; the water I will give to Tuppen, my chick, that lies for dead in the wood."

6. "Thou wilt get no corn from me, until I get bread from thee," answered the farmer. So tired little Cluck-cluck ran to the baker's wife, and said: "My dear baker's wife, give me some bread; the bread I will give to the farmer, the farmer will give me some corn; the corn I will give to the pig, the pig will give me some bristles; the bristles I will give to the shoemaker, the shoemaker will give me some shoes; the shoes I will give to the good woman, the good woman will give me red gold ribbons; the red

gold ribbons I will give to the oak-tree, the oak-tree will give me some leaves; the leaves I will give to the spring, the spring will give me water; the water I will give to Tuppen, that lies for dead in the wood."

7. "Thou wilt get no bread from me, until I get wood from thee," answered the baker's wife. So the little hen ran to the wood-cutter, and said: "My dear wood-cutter, pray give me some wood; the wood I will give to the baker's wife, the baker's wife will give me some bread; the bread I will give to the farmer, the farmer will give me some corn; the corn I will give to the pig, the pig will give me some bristles; the bristles I will give to the shoemaker, the shoemaker will give me some shoes; the shoes I will give to the good woman, the good woman will give me some red gold ribbons; the red gold ribbons I will give to the oak-tree, the oak-tree will give me some leaves; the leaves I will give to the spring, the spring will give me some water; the water I will give to Tuppen, my chick, that lies for dead in the wood."

8. "Thou wilt get no wood from me, until I get an ax from thee," answered the wood-cutter. So Cluck-cluck ran to the blacksmith, and said: "My dear smith, pray give me an ax; the ax I will give to the wood-cutter, the wood-cutter will give me some wood; the wood I will give to the baker's wife, the baker's wife will give me bread; the bread I will give to the farmer, the farmer will give me corn; the corn I will give to the pig, the pig will give me bristles; the bristles I will give to the shoemaker, the shoemaker will give me a pair of shoes; the shoes I will give to the good woman, the good woman will give me red gold ribbons; the red gold ribbons I will give to the oak-tree, the oak-tree will give me some leaves; the leaves I will give to the spring, the spring will give me water; the water I will give to little Tuppen, my baby, that lies for dead in the wood."

9. "Thou wilt get no ax from me, until I get coals from thee," answered the blacksmith. So poor, tired little Cluck-cluck ran to the coal-burner, and said; "My dear coal-burner, pray give me some coals; the coals I will give to the smith, the smith will give me an ax; the ax I will give to the wood-cutter, the wood-cutter will give me some wood; the wood I will give to the baker's wife, the baker's wife will give me a loaf; the loaf I will give to

the farmer, the farmer will give me corn; the corn I will give to the pig, the pig will give me bristles; the bristles I will give to the shoemaker, the shoemaker will give me shoes; the shoes I will give to the good woman, the good woman will give me red gold ribbons; the red gold ribbons I will give to the oak-tree, the old oak will give me leaves; the leaves I will give to the spring, the spring will give me water; the water I will give to Tuppen, my child, that lies for dead in the wood."

10. So the coal-burner took pity on the poor little hen, and gave her some coal. And now the smith got the coal, the wood-cutter got the ax, the baker's wife got the wood, the farmer got the bread, the pig got the corn, the shoemaker got the bristles, the good woman got the shoes, the oak-tree got the red gold ribbons, the spring got the leaves, the hen got the water, which she gave to Tuppen, her chick, that lay for dead in the wood, and so Cluck-cluck's little chick, Tuppen, got well again.

The Anxious Leaf. (H. W. Beecher).

1. Once upon a time a little leaf was heard to sigh and cry, as leaves often do when a gentle wind is about. And the twig said: "What is the matter, little leaf?" And the leaf said: "The wind has just told me that one day it would pull me off and throw me down to die on the ground!" The twig told it to the branch on which it grew, and the branch told it to the tree. And when the tree heard it, he rustled all over, and sent back word to the leaf: "Do not be afraid; hold on tightly, and you shall not go till you want to."

2. And so the leaf stopped sighing, but went on nestling and singing. Every time the tree shook itself and stirred up all its leaves, the branches shook themselves, and the little twig shook itself, and the little leaf danced up and down merrily, as if nothing could ever pull it off. And so it grew all summer long till October. And when the bright days of autumn came, the little leaf saw all the leaves around becoming very beautiful. Some were yellow, and some scarlet, and some striped with both colors.

3. Then it asked the tree what it meant? And the tree said: "All these leaves are getting ready to fly away, and they have put

on those beautiful colors, because of joy." Then the little leaf began to want to go, and grew very beautiful in thinking of it, and when it was very gay in color, it saw that the branches of the tree had no color in them, and so the leaf said: "Oh, branches! why are you lead color and we golden?" "We must keep on our work clothes for our life is not done; but your clothes are for holiday, because your tasks are over."

4. Just then, a little puff of air came, and the leaf let go without thinking of it, and the wind took it up, and turned it over and over, and whirled it like a spark of fire in the air and then it fell gently down under the edge of the fence among hundreds of leaves, and fell into a dream and never waked up to tell what it dreamed about.

The Frog Who wished to be as big as an Ox. (Aesop).

An Ox, grazing in a meadow, chanced to set his foot on a young Frog and crushed him to death. His brothers and sisters who were playing near, at once ran to tell their mother what had happened. "The monster that did it, mother, was such a size!" said they. The mother, who was a vain old thing, thought that she could easily make herself as large. "Was it as big as this?" she asked, puffing and blowing herself out. "Oh, much bigger than that," replied the young Frogs. "As this, then?" cried she, puffing and blowing again with all her might. "Nay, mother," said they; "if you were to try till you burst yourself, you would never be so big." The silly old Frog tried to puff herself out still more, and burst herself indeed.

The Hawk and the Nightingale. (Aesop).

A Nightingale once fell into the clutches of a hungry Hawk who had been all day on the look-out for food. "Pray let me go," said the Nightingale; "I am such a mite for a stomach like yours. I sing so nicely too. Do let me go, it will do you so much good to hear me." "Much good it will do to an empty stomach," replied the Hawk; "and besides, a little bird that I have is more to me than a great one that has yet to be caught."

Robinson's House.

1. The ship was now all broken up by the wind and waves of last night's storm. I had made eleven trips to her on my raft, and had left but little of which I could make use. I had found a chest of tools such as carpenters use; three bags of spikes and nails; more than twenty hatchets and better than all—a grindstone; seven good guns, a few pistols, with plenty of powder and bullets; men's clothes, a good stock of bedding, and a fine hammock; and bread, sugar, fine flour and all kinds of food.

2. In fact, there was so much that could be of great use to me, that I felt myself rich indeed. I even found some money in gold and silver, and while I knew that, as I was the only person on the island, I could make no present use of it, yet I put it away in a safe place, in hopes that sometime a ship might come and take me away to where money is used, when it would be of value once more.

3. All this I had brought to the place where I had set my first tent, and piled up around it. A few things had been placed into the tent, but it was too small to hold much; the rain was likely to come and spoil some; it was not in order and it was difficult to find anything when wanted. Then I knew not what sort of wild men or beasts might at any moment appear, were there any on the island. It was plain that my greatest need was a house, not only for shelter from storms, but for safety as well. Besides, I must have a place in which to store all my goods.

4. I thought much of how to do this and what kind of dwelling to make—whether I should dig me a cave in the earth, or set up a tent on the earth. In short, I made up my mind to have both. I also soon found the place where I was then living to be unfit for an abode. It was upon low, wet ground near the sea, and while moist and damp, there was no good fresh water near it to drink. I could not but be sick much of the time were I to live there.

5. In search of a better place, I found a little plain on the side of quite a large hill, which, as it rose above the plain, was as steep as the side of a house. On this hillside there was a hollow place worn a little way in like the mouth or doorway of a cave, but there was really no cave or way into the hill at all.

6. On this flat or green, just before this hollow place, I made my plan to pitch my tent. The plain was about three hundred feet wide and nearly twice as long. It lay like a lawn before my door, and at the side farthest from the hill, it fell away with a gentle slope down to the low ground by the sea. It would be quite cool as the tent would face the north, and the hill gave a good shelter from the heat, until nearly time for the sun's setting.

7. Before I set up my tent, I drew a half-circle before the hollow place, which took in about thirty feet in all ways from the door. In this half-circle I set two rows of strong stakes, driving them into the ground till they stood very firm like posts, the biggest end being out of the ground about six feet and sharp at the top. The inside row did not stand more than six inches from the other.

8. Then I took the pieces of cable or large rope which I had cut in the ship, and laid them between these two rows of stakes, one upon another, until they came to the top, placing other stakes in the inside leaning against them at about three feet high, like a brace to a post. This made the fence so strong, that neither man nor beast could get into it or over it.

9. This cost a great deal of time and labor, because I lost much time, the rain hindering me days and even weeks together, and I can hardly tell how great was the labor needed to cut the stakes, bring them out of the woods and drive them into the ground; for I found later that I had made them much bigger than I needed to have done. I thought I should never be secure until this wall was completed, hence I lost not a moment in finishing it.

10. There was no entrance to this place by means of a gate or door, but I made a short ladder to go in over the top, which ladder, when I was in, I lifted over after me. I was thus completely fenced in from all the world, and slept secure in the night which otherwise I could not have done.

11. Inside this fence or little fort, with much labor, I carried all my riches of food and stores, of which I have spoken before. I then made me a large tent, with which to protect me from the rains, that in one part of the year are very violent there.

This I made double—one smaller tent within, and one larger tent above it. The larger or upper tent was covered with a very heavy canvas which I had saved among the sails.

12. Into this tent I brought all my food and everything that would spoil by the wet, and having thus protected all my goods, I made up the entrance which till now I had left open, and so passed and repassed as I said before by a short ladder. When I had done this I began to work my way into the hill, and bringing all the earth and stones that I had dug down, out through the tent, I laid them up within the fence, and thus made a bank about two feet high. I thus made a cave just behind my tent which served me as a cellar to my house.

13. When I began to dig behind my tent, I found myself in great need of two things—a pick-ax and a shovel. As none had been found in the ship, I had to set my wits to work to supply the need. In place of the pick-ax I made a crow-bar answer very nicely, but the shovel I had to make. So the next day I went to the woods and after a long search found a tree of that wood, or very much like it, which is commonly called iron-wood.

14. This was so hard that only after much labor and almost spoiling my ax, I was able to fell the tree and cut from it a piece long enough for the purpose. It was also hard work to carry it home, as wood that is so hard is always very heavy. Having no other way to work it than by hand and with dull tools, I had to spend much time in making it, as I could only cut it little by little. I kept at it, however, and in time had a good shovel, which, while it had no iron blade, lasted well and enabled me to dig out a large amount of dirt.

15. I found also that a wheel-barrow would be of great use in taking the dirt out through the tent, but after several attempts, I had to give up the idea of making one. I then thought about making a basket in which to carry the dirt, but could find no willow or other twigs that would bend, hence was forced to give up that plan also. So I made a sort of hod such as they carry brick and mortar in, and made use of that.

16. In making the shovel and the hod, and the time lost in failures to make the barrow and the basket, I used four days, not count-

ing the time I employed in taking my daily trips with my gun, which I seldom missed, and from which I almost always brought home something fit to eat.

17. My other work having been at a standstill while making these tools, I now returned to the work of digging the cave. This being done, it became time to move the goods into it, which I now did. I found, however, that they lay in much disorder, so that they took up all the place, and I had no room even to turn about. So I then set myself to enlarge my cellar and extend it further into the earth, for it was a loose, sandy soil which I could remove very easily.

18. And so when I found that there were no beasts of prey on the island, I worked sideways to the right in the hill, and then turning to the right again, dug quite out, and made a door to come from the cave directly outside the row of stakes. This gave me not only a way in and out, as it were a back door to my tent and storehouse, but gave me much more room to store my goods.

19. At the same time I was working to make the cave large enough to afford me not only a storehouse, but a kitchen, a dining-room and a cellar; as for sleeping, I kept to the tent, except in the wet season of the year, when sometimes it rained so hard that I could not keep myself dry. I was then compelled to make it my bedroom also. I now worked for eighteen days to widen and deepen it enough to meet all these needs.

20. I had just begun to think the cave finished when, on a sudden, (it seems I had made it too large) a lot of earth fell down from the top and one side—so much that in short, I would have been killed had I been under it. This gave me a great deal of work to do over again, for I had the loose earth to carry out, and the roof to prop up, so that I might be sure that no more would come down.

21. I then went to the woods, cut posts and set them upright to the top, placed two boards on each post against the earth which formed the roof, and in a week had all secure, while the posts standing in rows served for walls to part off my house into rooms.

22. And now I began to apply myself to make such things as I found I most wanted, as for instance a chair and a table; for without these I was not able to enjoy the few comforts I had in the

world. I could not write or eat or do several things with much ease without a table. And so I went to work.

23. I had never had nor used any tools, and had I been where I could have gotten any person to make these things for me, I would never have thought myself able to make anything. But I was where, if ever I had anything, I had to make it. Yet in time I found that by hard work and STICKING AT IT, I could make almost anything I wanted, even if I had but few tools with which to work.

24. Indeed I made plenty of things with no more tools than an adz and a hatchet. If I wanted a board, I had no other way than to cut down a tree, set it on edge before me and hew it flat on both sides till I had made it to be as thin as a plank, then smooth it off with my adz. It is true I could make but one plank out of a whole tree, which took much time and labor, but time I had in plenty, and labor was worth but little, so I could be employed in that way just as well as in any other.

25. However, I made me a table and a chair in the first place, and this I did out of the pieces of boards that I brought on my raft from the ship; but when I had made some boards out of trees, I made large shelves, a foot and a half wide, one over another, all along the sides of my cave, on which to lay all my tools, nails, and, in a word, to make a place for all my goods that I might the more easily find them. I drove pegs into the dirt walls, on which to hang my guns and all things that would hang up. When all this was done, my cave seemed like a general storehouse, and I had everything so ready to my hand that it was a great pleasure to see all my goods in such order, and to find my stock so great.

26. In the long time I took to do all this, I went out once at least every day with my gun, first to rest myself, and to learn what I could about the island. I found wild goats and often got a good shot at them, so that their flesh or that of their kids kept me living well.

27. One day I shot a young goat but did not kill it. When I got it home, I bound up its leg which was broken. I took such care of it, that it lived and the leg became as well and strong as ever. It became tame, fed upon the little green at my door, drank at the little spring that came out of the ground close by, and could

not be driven away. This was the first time that I ever thought of keeping some tame beasts that I might have food when my powder and shot were all spent.

28. I now had a place that I could call home, and which seemed, after all I had been through, quite like home. The place was secure from rain and the heat of the sun. A snug, dry cave in which to live when the wet season came, and a cool tent in which to sleep when the season was dry. It was protected by a strong wall which kept all wild beasts at a distance, while a spring gave me plenty of pure, cool water.

29. It was also high enough on the side of the hill, that I might see a long way out at sea, so that if God in his mercy should see fit to send a ship to deliver me from this lonesome life, I could see it in time to enable myself to attract it by signals to my aid. My greatest hope is that I may be able to return to life among men at some time, but while I am here, I am quite sure of a life in peace, plenty and comfort.

The Man and the Fox. (Aesop).

A Man, whose vines and orchards had suffered greatly from the ravages of Foxes, one day caught one of these animals in a trap. In a great rage he tied up the Fox's tail with tow that had been steeped in turpentine, set a light to it, and let him run, mad with pain and fright. The Fox ran through a large field in which, ripe for the harvest, stood corn belonging to his tormentor. The corn caught fire, and the flames, fanned by the wind, spread over the field and laid it waste. The man lamented bitterly that he had not chosen some safer and less cruel means of revenge.

The Gnat and the Ox. (Aesop).

A sturdy Ox was driven by the heat of the weather to wade up to his knees in a cool and swift-running stream. He had not been long there when a Gnat, that had been flying about in the air, pitched upon one of his horns. "My dear fellow," said the Gnat with as great a buzz as he could manage, "pray excuse the liberty I take. If I am too heavy, only say so, and I will go at once and

rest upon the poplar which grows close by at the edge of the stream." "Stay or go, it makes no matter to me," replied the Ox. "Had it not been for your buzz I should not even have known you were there."

Robinson's Illness.

1. One morning on going down to the seaside I found a large tortoise or turtle; this was the first I had seen, which it seems was not the fault of the place, but of my not having looked about me enough. I afterwards found that had I gone to the other side of the island, I would have seen hundreds of them every day; but perhaps I might have paid dearly enough for them as I did for this one.

2. The next day was spent in cooking the turtle. I found sixty eggs in her; and her meat was to me at that time the most pleasant that I had ever eaten in my whole life, having had no flesh but that of goats and fowls since I had landed in this horrid place. It rained all day so I stayed within. Whenever a little rain fell upon me, it seemed to feel cold, which made me feel very chilly, which I knew was not often the case in such a warm climate.

3. The next morning I felt quite ill. I was cold and shivered as if the weather had been chilly. When night came I tried to sleep, but could get no rest the whole night. Violent pains in my head kept me awake, and I began to have a fever. I then began to see that I was very ill, and to think of being sick all alone on this island with no one to care for me or to help me, caused me great fright. For the first time in years I went to God for assistance. I hardly knew what I said, though, for I was a little confused as to my thoughts.

4. For a week I was one day a little better, the next much worse. Sometimes cold and shivering, then burning with a fever besides having a bad headache. One day I felt much better and having no food to eat, took my gun but found myself very weak. It was all I could do to walk, but by resting I did manage to kill a goat; and after much trouble got it home, broiled some of it and ate. I would liked to have stewed it but had no kettle.

5. The next night was the most dismal of all my sickness. The chill was so bad that I had lain in bed all day, and neither eaten nor drunk. I was ready to perish for thirst, but was so weak that I could not stand up or get myself any water to drink. I tried to pray to God again, but was so light in the head much of the time that I did not know what I was saying, and when I was not out of my head, I did not know how to pray or what to say.

6. I suppose that I rested but little for two or three hours, till the chill wearing off, I fell asleep and did not awake till far into the night. When I awoke I found myself much better, but weak and much in need of water. However, as there was none in the house, I had to wait until morning, so went to sleep again; in this sleep I had dreams that were fearful to relate. The fright and terror of these dreams were very great, yet I had had sleep enough to rest and refresh me.

7. I knew, however, that while the chill had gone, it was sure to return again the next day, and now was the time to get something to refresh and support me when next I should be ill. The first thing I did I filled a large bottle with water and set it upon the table in reach of my bed. I then got me a piece of goat's flesh, and broiled it on the coals, but could eat but very little. I tried to walk about, but was so weak that I could go but a little ways. At night I made my supper of three of the turtle's eggs, which I roasted in the ashes and ate as we call it, in the shell; and this was the first bit of meat I had ever asked God's blessing to, in my whole life.

8. Again, after I had eaten, I tried to walk, but still found myself so weak that I could not carry my gun, and as I never went out without that, I sat down upon the ground looking out upon the sea which was just before me, and very calm and smooth. When it grew dark, I rose up sadly, went back to my home, and went over the wall as if I were going to bed. But my thoughts were such that I could not sleep so I sat down in my chair and lighted my lamp.

9. It now began to be time for the return of my sickness, so I tried to think of something that I might take to help me, and make me feel better. I had no medicine or anything that is used to aid sick people. Just then I thought of some tobacco which I

had seen in one of the chests. I do not think that tobacco is very good to take for any such purpose, yet I was so sick that I would have been glad to take anything that came in my way.

10. I am sure that Heaven took me to that chest, for as I opened it I found not only the roll of tobacco, but several bibles. These I had seen before, but so evil had been my mind and ways, that I had never even looked into one. I now took one out and brought both it and the tobacco with me to the table. I knew not how to use the tobacco or whether it was good for me or no. I first chewed a piece of the leaf, then steeped some for an hour, to take when I lay down. I had never been used to it, so it went to my head and made me as one drunk.

11. While the tobacco was steeping, I took up the bible, opened it and began to read. My head was too drunk with the tobacco to bear much reading at that time, but I happened to open the book where the first words that met my eyes were—"Call on Me in the day of trouble, and I will deliver thee." These words were very apt to my case, and when my mind again became clear, I thought of them very often. It now grew late and the tobacco had made me very sleepy; so I left the lamp burning in the cave, lest I should want anything in the night, and went to bed.

12. Before I lay down, I did what I never had done in all my life. I kneeled down and prayed to God to keep His promise to me, that if I called on Him in the day of trouble, He would deliver me. After this poor little prayer was over, I drank the steeped tobacco which was so rank and strong that I could hardly get it down. I at once went to bed, and while it flew to my head, yet I soon fell into a sound sleep, and failed to awake until three of the next afternoon.

13. I found myself much better and my mind far more cheerful. When I got up I was stronger than I was the day before, besides I was quite hungry. I had no chill the next day and grew much better. The day after was my well day and I went out with my gun but did not dare to travel too far. I shot a sea fowl or two which were a little like a wild goose, but did not care for them much to eat; so I ate some more of the turtle's eggs, which were very good.

14. When evening came I took some more of the medicine which I had thought did me good the day before, only I did not take so much as before. I was not so well the next day as I hoped I should be, for I had a little spice of the cold fit, but it was not much. In a few days I missed the chills for good and all, but did not get my full strength for some days after.

15. While I was thus getting better in body, I felt that I was also growing likewise as to mind and soul. I gave much of my thought to the words of the bible in which God said, "I will deliver thee." Well indeed, had He kept His word, as I was free from my illness and would soon be well. I could not, however, ask myself—"Have I not been well delivered from my sickness? Was I not in as great distress as a man could be? To have been more ill would have been to die; and yet He delivered me. What notice have I taken of it? Have I done my part? That is to say, have I gone to Him with thanks for his great mercy?" This went to my heart very much, and at once I kneeled down and gave God thanks aloud for my return to good health.

16. This was the first time that I could say in the true sense of the words, that, in all my life I prayed; for now I prayed with a sense of true hope founded on the word of God; and from this time I may say, I began to have hope that He would hear me. I was now much better as to ease of mind but not much so as to my way of living. My medicine was quite new, and I would not advise any to use it, for while it did cure the illness it also made me so weak that I could hardly stand for some time.

17. I had now been on this unhappy island for more than ten months, with no more prospects of getting away than when I first came. I firmly believed that no human shape had ever set foot upon that place, hence could see but little hope of help from the rest of the world. Yet I still clung to my faith, for God had delivered me from my sickness, and He could as well send other aid in good time.

The White Duck.

1. Once upon a time a great and powerful king married a lovely princess. No couple were ever so happy; but before their honey-

moon was over they were forced to part, for the king had to go on a warlike expedition to a far country and leave his young wife alone at home. Bitter were the tears she shed, while her husband sought in vain to soothe her with words of comfort and counsel, warning her, above all things, never to leave the castle, to hold no intercourse with strangers, to beware of evil counselors, and especially to be on her guard against strange women. And the queen promised faithfully to obey her royal lord and master in these four matters.

2. So when the king set out on his expedition she shut herself up with her ladies in her own apartments, and spent her time in spinning and weaving and thinking of her royal husband. One day she was very sad and lonely, and it happened that while she was seated at the window, letting tears drop on her work, an old woman, a kind, homely-looking old body, stepped up to the window, and, leaning upon her crutch, addressed the queen in friendly, flattering terms, saying:

3. "Why are you sad and cast down, fair queen? You should not mope all day in your rooms, but should come out into the green garden and hear the birds sing with joy among the trees, and see the butterflies fluttering above the flowers, and hear the bees and insects hum and watch the sunbeams chase the dewdrops through the roseleaves and in the lily cups. All the brightness outside would help to drive away your cares, O queen." For long the queen resisted her coaxing words, remembering the promise she had given to the king her husband; but at last she thought to herself:

4. "After all, what harm would it do if I were to go into the garden for a short time and enjoy myself among the trees and flowers, and the singing birds and the fluttering butterflies and humming insects, and look at the dewdrops hiding from the sunbeams in the hearts of the roses and lilies, and wander about in the sunshine, instead of remaining all day in this room?"

For she had no idea that the kind-looking old woman, leaning on her crutch, was in reality a wicked witch who envied the queen her good fortune and was determined to ruin her. And so, in all ignorance, the queen followed her out into the garden, and listened to her smooth, flattering words. Now, in the middle of the

garden there was a pond of water, clear as crystal, and the old woman said to the queen:

5. "The day is so warm and the sun's rays so scorching that the water in the pond looks very cool and inviting. Would you not like to bathe in it, fair queen?"

"No, I think not," answered the queen; but the next moment she regretted her words, and thought to herself, "why should I not bathe in that cool, fresh water? No harm could come of it." And so saying she slipped off her robes and stepped into the water. But scarcely had her tender feet touched the cool ripples when she felt a great shove on her shoulders, and the wicked witch had pushed her into the deep water, exclaiming:

"Swim henceforth, white duck!"

6. And the witch herself assumed the form of the queen, and decked herself out in the royal robes, and sat among the court ladies awaiting the king's return. And suddenly the tramp of horses' hoofs was heard and the barking of dogs, and the witch hastened forward to meet her royal master, and, throwing her arms round his neck, kissed him. And in his great joy, the king did not know that the woman he held in his arms was not his own dear wife, but a wicked witch. In the meantime, outside the palace walls the poor white duck swam up and down the pond; and near it laid three eggs, out of which there came, one morning, two little fluffy ducklings and a little, ugly drake.

7. And the white duck brought the little creatures up, and they paddled after her in the pond and caught goldfish, and hopped upon the bank and waddled about, ruffling their feathers and saying "Quack, quack," as they strutted about on the green banks of the pond. But their mother used to warn them not to stray too far, telling them that a wicked witch lived in the castle beyond the garden, adding: "She has ruined me and she will do her best to ruin you." But the young ones did not listen to their mother, and playing about the garden one day, strayed close up to the castle windows.

8. The witch at once knew them and ground her teeth with anger; but she soon hid her feelings, and, pretending to be very kind, she called them to her and joked with them, and led them into a beautiful room, where she gave them food to eat and showed

them a soft cushion on which they might sleep. Then she left them and went down into the palace kitchens, where she told the servants to sharpen the knives, and to make a great fire ready and hang a large kettle full of water over it.

9. In the meantime the two little ducklings had fallen asleep, and the drake lay between them, covered up by their wings, to be kept warm by their feathers. But the little drake could not go to sleep, and as he lay there wide awake in the night he heard the witch come to the door and say:

“Little ones, are you asleep?”

And the little drake answered for the other two:

“We cannot sleep, we wake and weep;

Sharp is the knife to take our life;

The fire is hot, now boils the pot,

And so we wake and lie and quake.”

10. “They are not asleep yet,” muttered the witch to herself; and she walked up and down in the passage, and then came back to the door and said:

“Little ones, are you asleep?”

And again the little drake answered for his sisters:

“We cannot sleep, we wake and weep;

Sharp is the knife to take our life;

The fire is hot, now boils the pot,

And so we wake and lie and quake.”

“Just the same answer,” muttered the witch. “I think I will go in and see.” So she opened the door gently, and seeing the two little ducklings sound asleep, she there and then killed all three.

11. The next morning the white duck wandered round the pond in a distracted manner, looking for her little ones; she called and she searched, but could find no trace of them. And in her heart she had a foreboding that evil had befallen them, and she fluttered up out of the water and flew to the palace. And there, laid out on the marble floor of the court, dead and stone cold, were her three children. The white duck threw herself upon them, and covering up their little bodies with her wings she cried:

“Quack, quack—my little loves!

Quack, quack—my turtledoves!

I brought you up with grief and pain,

And now before my eyes you're slain.
I gave you always of the best;
I kept you warm in my soft nest.
I loved and watched you day and night—
You were my joy, my one delight."

12. The king heard the sad complaint of the white duck and called to the witch: "Wife, what wonder is this? Listen to that white duck."

But the witch answered: "My dear husband, what do you mean? There is nothing wonderful in a duck's quacking. Here, servants! chase that duck out of the court-yard." But though the servants chased and chased, they could not get rid of the duck; for she circled round and round and always came back to the spot where her children lay, crying:

"Quack, quack—my little loves!
Quack, quack—my turtledoves!
The wicked witch your lives did take—
The wicked witch, the cunning snake.
First she stole my king away,
Then my children did she slay.
Changed me from a happy wife
To a duck for all my life.
Would I were the queen again;
Would that you had ne'er been slain."

13. And as the king heard her words he began to suspect that he had been deceived, and he called out to the servants: "Catch that duck and bring it here." But though they ran to and fro the duck always fled past them and would not let herself be caught. So the king himself stepped down among them, and instantly the duck fluttered down into his hands. And as he stroked her wings she was changed into a beautiful woman, and he recognized his dear wife. And she told him that a bottle would be found in her nest in the garden containing some drops from the spring of healing. And it was brought to her, and the ducklings and the little drake were sprinkled with the water, and from the little dead bodies, three lovely children arose. And the king and queen were overjoyed when they saw their children, and they all lived happily together in their beautiful palace. But the wicked witch was taken by the king's command and she came to no good end.

The Cat and the Fox. (Aesop).

The Cat and the Fox were once talking together in the middle of a forest. "Let things be ever so bad," said Reynard, "I don't care; I have a hundred tricks if one should fail." "I," said the Cat, "have but one; if that fails me, I am undone." Just then a pack of Hounds burst into view. The Cat flew up a tree, and sat securely among the branches, and thence saw the Fox, after trying his hundred tricks in vain, overtaken by the Dogs and torn in pieces.

Seeing the Island.

1. It was the middle of July that I began to make a more perfect survey of the island itself. I went up the creek first, starting at the place where, as I told before, I had brought my rafts on shore. I found after I came about two miles up, that the tide did not flow any higher, and that it was no more than a little brook of running water, and very fresh and good; but this being the dry season, there was hardly any water in some parts of it, at least not enough to make any current so far as could be seen.

2. On the banks of this brook I found many pleasant fields or meadows—plain, smooth and covered with grass; and on the slopes next to the higher ground, where the water, as could plainly be seen, never rose high enough to overflow, I found a great deal of tobacco, green and growing on a great and very strong stalk; there were many other plants of which I knew nothing, and which perhaps were of great worth to mankind, had I been able to find it.

3. I hunted for the cassava root of which the people of that climate make their bread, but could find none. I saw large plants of aloes, but did not then know about them. I saw a number of sugar canes, but they were wild, and for want of good care, very imperfect. I now contented myself with what I had now seen and found, and came back home thinking as to what way I could take to learn the goodness of any of the plants which I should discover. They may be of great use to me but I had no means of finding it out; for while I was in Brazil, I had spent so little time in the study of such things, that I knew but little of the plants of the field—at

least very little that might serve me to any purpose now in my distress.

4. The next day I went up the same way again, and after going something farther than I had gone the day before, I came to the end of the brook, and the meadows began to cease. The country now became more woody than before. In this part I found many different fruits, and most of all I found melons on the ground in great abundance and grapes on the trees; the vines had spread indeed over the trees, and great clusters of the grapes were just now in their prime, very ripe and rich.

5. This was very pleasing to me, and I was very glad to find them. I ate not many of them, as I knew that to eat too many when not used to them often killed those who failed to know this truth; but I found an excellent use for these grapes, and that was to cure or dry them in the sun, and keep them as dried grapes or raisins are kept, which I thought would be, as indeed they were, very wholesome and pleasant to eat, when no grapes were to be had.

6. I spent all that evening there and went not back to my house, which by the way was the first night, as I might say, I had spent away from home. I did as when I first came upon the island, got up into a tree, where I slept well the entire night, and when morning came, proceeded upon my tramp. I went quite nearly four miles, as might appear from the length of the valley, keeping still due west, with a ridge of hills on the south and another on the north side of me.

7. At the end of the valley I come to an opening, where the country seemed to descend to the west, and a little spring of fresh water, which came out of the side of the hill by me, ran the other way—that is, due east; and the country was so fresh, so bright and so beautiful, everything being in the constant green of spring that it looked like a planted garden. I went a little way down on the side of that lovely vale, looking at it with a secret kind of pleasure (though mixed with my sorrowful thoughts) to think that this was all my own, that I was king and lord of all this country, with none to deny me the right.

8. I saw here plenty of cocoa, orange, lemon and citron trees; but all wild and very few bearing any fruit, at least not

then. However, the green limes that I found were not only pleasant to eat, but very wholesome; and I mixed their juice afterwards with water, which made it very wholesome, cool, and refreshing. I found now I had work enough to gather and carry these home, as I had made up my mind to lay up a store, as well as grapes, of limes and lemons, to use in the wet season, which I knew would soon come.

9. In order to do this, I gathered a great heap of grapes in one place, a lesser heap in another place, and a great parcel of limes and lemons in a third; and taking a few of each with me, I started homeward, expecting to come again, and bring a bag or sack, or what I could make to bring the rest home.

10. So after having spent three days on this trip, I came home; so I must now call my tent and my cave; but, before I got thither, the grapes were spoiled, the richness of the fruit and the weight of the juice having crushed and broken them so that they were good for little or nothing; as to the limes, they were good, but I could bring but a few.

11. The next day I went back, having made me two small bags to bring home my harvest; but what was my surprise when coming to my heap of grapes, which were so rich and so fine when I left them, I found them all spread out, trodden to pieces, dragged about, some here, some there, with many eaten or spoiled. By this I could see that there were some wild creatures there which had done this, but what they were, I knew not.

12. However, I found there was no laying them upon heaps, as the wild beasts would destroy them, nor could I take them home in sacks, as they would be crushed with their own weight; so I took another course. I picked a great many bunches of the grapes and hung them up upon the branches of the trees, that they might cure and dry in the sun; as for the limes and lemons, I carried as many bags as I could well stand under.

13. When I was on my way home, I stood and looked with great pleasure for some time on this lovely valley, for it was so pleasant and seemed so secure from storms, being protected by the hills and woods. This led me to think that I had selected a place to fix my abode, which was by far the worst part of the country. I next began to consider removing my home, and to look out for a place

which would be as safe and secure as the one in which I now lived, but which would be in this pleasant part of the island.

14. This thought ran long in my head, and I was very fond of it for some time, being tempted by the pleasantness of the place; but when I came to a nearer view of it, and to consider that I was now by the seaside, where it was at least possible that something might happen to my advantage, and at least by the same ill fate that brought me hither might also bring some other unhappy wretches to the same place. While this was not likely to happen, yet to enclose myself among the hills and woods in the middle of the island was to be where I could not know of any such happening, hence I thought it best not to move.

15. However, I was so much in love with the place, that I spent much of my time there, and built me a kind of bower, and surrounded it with a strong fence, being a double hedge as high as I could reach, well staked and filled between with brushwood. Here I slept very secure, some times two or three nights together always going over it with a ladder as before; so that now I had my country house and my seacoast house. This work took me all the rest of the month of July.

16. I had but newly completed my fence, and begun to enjoy the result of my labor, when the rains came on and made me stick close to my first home; for though I had made me a tent like the other, with a piece of sail, and spread it very well, yet I had not the shelter of a hill to keep me from storms, nor a cave behind me to retreat into when the rains were very heavy. So rather than run the risk of another severe illness, I deemed it wise to remain close within my seaside home.

17. About the first of August, as I said, I had completed my bower, and begun to enjoy myself. The third day of August I found the grapes that I had hung up were perfectly dried, and indeed were very fine raisins of the sun; so I began to take them down from the trees, and it was very happy that I did so; for the rains which soon came would have spoiled them, and I had lost the best part of my winter's food; for I had above two hundred bunches of them. No sooner had I taken them all down, and carried most of them home to the cave, but it began to rain, and from hence, which was the fourteenth of August, it rained more or less

every day till the middle of October; and sometimes so violently that I could not stir out of my house for several days at a time.

The Fairy's Two Gifts.

1. In olden times, when the fairies lived on earth in the forms of human beings, a good fairy, once wandering for some distance, became tired, and night came on before she could find shelter. At last she saw before her two houses just opposite to each other—one large and beautiful, which belonged to a rich man; the other, small and mean in appearance, was owned by a poor peasant. The fairy thought, "I shall not be of much trouble to the rich man if he gives me shelter." So she went up to the door of the beautiful house and knocked. At the sound the rich man opened a window, and asked the stranger what she wanted.

2. "I beg you to give me a night's lodging," she replied. Then the owner of the beautiful house looked at the wanderer from head to foot, and saw that she was dressed in mean and ragged clothes, but he could not see how much gold she had in her pocket. So he shook his head, and said, "I cannot take you in; my rooms are full of things of great value, and if I were to admit to my house every one who knocks at my door, I should soon have to take the beggar's staff myself. You must seek for what you want elsewhere."

3. Then he shut down the window, and left the good fairy standing outside. She turned her back upon the grand house, and went across to the other. Scarcely had she knocked when the poor man came and opened the door, and begged the wanderer to enter. "You must remain all night with us," he said; "it is already quite dark, and you cannot attempt to go further." The fairy was so pleased with this reception that she stepped in, and the wife of the poor man came forward to welcome her, and led her in and told her to make herself quite comfortable.

4. "We have not much," she said, "but what there is we will give you with all our hearts." She placed the potatoes on the fire, and while they were cooking, milked the goat that the visitor might have a little milk. As soon as the cloth was laid the fairy seated herself at the table and ate with them, and the poor fare

tasted good, because it was partaken amid contentment and peace.

5. After they had finished and bedtime come, the wife called her husband away privately and said: "Dear husband, let us for to-night make up a straw bed for ourselves that the traveler may lie in our bed and rest; after walking the whole day she must be tired."

"With all my heart," he replied; "I will go and ask her to do so."

6. The good fairy, however, would not at first consent to accept this kind offer, but they were so earnest in their request that at length she could not refuse. The poor man and his wife, therefore, slept on their bed of straw, and the fairy rested comfortably in bed. In the morning when she rose, she found the wife cooking an early breakfast for her of the best they had. The fairy again took her place at the table, the sun shone brightly into the room, and the faces of the poor people wore such a happy, contented expression, that she was sorry to leave them.

7. As she rose to go, she wished them farewell and thanked them for their kindness. But at the door she turned and said: "As you have been so kind to me when you thought I was so poor and in need, therefore I will show you that I have power to reward you. Three times shall your wish be granted you."

"What greater blessings can I wish for," said the husband, "but that we two, as long as we live, may be healthy and strong, and that we may always have our simple wants provided for? I cannot think of a third wish!"

8. "Would you not like a new house instead of this old one?" she asked.

"Oh, yes," they both cried; "if we have these three wishes granted, we shall want nothing more."

Then the fairy changed the old house into a new one, and promising them the fulfillment of their other wishes went her way. About noon the owner of the fine house happened to look out from his window, and saw with surprise opposite to him a pretty new cottage with red tiles on the spot where the old house once stood. He stared at it for some time, and at last called to his wife and said to her:

9. "Tell me how this can have happened; yesterday, there stood an old hut; to-day, this beautiful new cottage. Run over and ask how it has all come about."

The wife went over to ask the poor man to explain this wonderful change. "Yesterday evening," he said, "came a poor traveler to our door and begged a night's lodging. She was very poorly clad, but we gave her all we had, and our bed. This morning when she left us, she offered to grant us the fulfillment of three wishes. We wished for good health and our daily food as the greatest blessings, and at last she changed our old hut into this new and beautiful cottage."

10. On hearing this, the rich man's wife ran hastily back and related to her husband what she had heard. "I could tear and beat myself to pieces!" he exclaimed. "Oh, if I had only known! That stranger came here first, such a shabby-looking woman she was, and begged me to give her a night's lodging, but I refused her!"

"Never mind," said his wife; "now make haste, get on your horse, and ride after this woman; if you can but overtake her, you can ask her to grant you three wishes also."

11. The rich man followed this good advice, saddled his horse, rode after the traveler, and at last overtook her. He spoke to her then most gently and kindly, and hoped that she would not take it amiss that he had not admitted her the evening before. "I assure you," he said, "I was only looking for the key of the house door, and in the meantime you went away; if you should pass our way again, you must stay with us."

"Yes," she replied, "I will do so if I ever pass your house again."

12. Then the rich man asked the poor woman if she would not grant him three wishes as well as his neighbor. "I would grant you this willingly," replied the fairy, "but I do not think it would be good for you; you have nothing to wish for." The rich man replied that he could easily find something to wish for that would bring him good fortune if he knew that his wishes would be granted.

"Very well, then," replied the fairy; "ride home, and whatever your three wishes are, they shall be granted."

13. The rich man had obtained his desire, and he rode homeward, thinking deeply of what the wishes should be. As he thus thought, he allowed the bridle to hang so loosely that his horse began to caper and dance about, till his thoughts were all so scattered that he could not collect them again. He struck the horse and said, "Be quiet, Bess;" but the animal pranced and reared till he was nearly thrown off. At last he became angry, and cried out, "What do you mean by it? I wish your neck was broken!"

14. No sooner had he spoken the words than his horse fell under him, and lay dead and motionless, and so was his first wish fulfilled. As he was by nature stingy, he could not leave his saddle and bridle behind him, so he cut the straps, hung them on his back, and made ready to walk home, as he was now obliged to do. "We have still two wishes remaining," he said, and comforted himself with the thought.

15. As he now walked along through the hot sand, with the burning noonday sun shining brightly upon him, he became fretful with the heat and fatigue. The saddle dragged him back, and seemed ready to fall, and he could not decide what to wish for. "If I were to wish for all the riches and treasures in the world," he said to himself, "what would be the use? I should not know which to choose. I will contrive, however, that when I have gained my two wishes I shall have nothing else left to wish for." Then he sighed, and said:

16. "If I were like the peasant who had three wishes offered him. First he wished for a drink of beer; the second time for as much beer as he could drink; and the third time for a whole cask. Each time he thought he had gained what he wanted, but afterwards it seemed to him as nothing." Presently there came to him a thought of how happy his wife must be, sitting in their cool room at home, and enjoying something very nice. It vexed him so much not to be there with her, that, without a thought of the consequences, he exclaimed, "I wish this heavy saddle would slip from my back, and that she was sitting upon it, not able to move!"

17. As the last word fell from his lips the saddle and bridle vanished, and he became aware that his second wish was fulfilled. Heated as he became at this thought, he yet ran home, for he wanted to sit alone in his chamber and think of something great

for his last wish. But when he opened the room door, there sat his wife on the saddle, screaming and lamenting that she was fixed and could not get down.

18. "Make yourself quite happy," said he. "I can wish for all the riches in the world to be ours; and my wish will be granted if you will only remain sitting there." "But," she replied, angrily, "you stupid head, what would be the use of all the riches in the world to me if I am obliged to sit always on this saddle? No, no; you wished me here, and now you must wish me off again."

19. He was obliged, therefore, much against his will, to utter as his third wish that his wife might be set free and able to alight from the saddle, and the wish was at once granted. The rich and selfish man had, therefore, no other results from his three wishes than anger, vexation, trouble, hard words from his wife, and the loss of his horse. The poor man, who had a free heart and was kind to others, had gained happiness and contentment for the rest of his days.

The Fox and the Crow. (Aesop).

A Crow, having stolen a piece of cheese from a cottage window, flew with it to a tree that was some way off. A Fox, drawn by the smell of the cheese, came and sat at the foot of the tree, and tried to find some way of making it his. "Good morning, dear Miss Crow," said he. "How well you are looking to-day! What handsome feathers yours are to be sure! Perhaps, too, your voice is as sweet as your feathers are fine. If so, you are really the Queen of Birds." The Crow, quite beside herself to hear such praise, at once opened a wide beak to let the Fox judge of her voice, and so let fall the cheese. The Fox snapped it up and exclaimed, "Ah! ah! my good soul, learn that all who flatter have their own ends in view. That lesson will well repay you for a bit of cheese."

The House in the Wood.

1. A poor woodcutter lived with his wife and three daughters in a little hut on the borders of a lonely forest. One morning when he was going to work, he said to his wife, "Send my eldest daughter out into the wood with my dinner at noon. I shall be

quite ready for it, and that she may not lose her way, I will take a bag of millet with me and strew the seeds on the path."

2. As soon as the sun had reached its highest and was shining over the wood, the maiden started on her road with a large jug of soup and some bread for her father's dinner. But the field and hedge sparrows, the larks, the finches, and other birds, had long before picked up the seeds, so that the maiden could not find the track.

3. Luckily she went forward in the right way; yet the sun went down and night came on before she could find shelter. The trees rustled in the darkness, the nightowl screamed, and the poor girl was in great fear, when all at once she saw a light twinkling in the distance through the trees. "There must be people living there," she thought, "and no doubt they will give me a night's lodging." She turned her steps toward the light, and very soon came to a house through the window of which the light shone.

4. She knocked at the door, and a rough voice cried from within, "Come in!" She stepped into a narrow, dark hall, and tapped at the room door. The same voice cried, "Come in!" and when the door opened she saw a very old man sitting at a table; his chin rested on his hands, and his white beard fell over them nearly to the ground. Near the stove lay three animals—a cock, a hen, and a speckled cow. The maiden told the old man of her trouble, and asked if she could have a night's lodging. Instead of answering her the old man turned to the animals and said:

"Little chicks and spotted cow,
Shall we keep her here or no?"

5. The animals made certain sounds which meant that she was to stay. So the old man said: "You will find plenty of everything here, so go into the kitchen and cook us some supper." The maiden found an abundance of all she wanted, and after cooking a dishful of good food, she placed it on the table, and seating herself with the old man, ate a hearty meal; but she never thought of the animals. When she was satisfied, she said, "I am very tired; where is a bed on which I can sleep?" In reply came a voice:

"You can eat and drink,
But you cannot think
Of poor animals such as we;

You shall have a bed,
Just to rest your head,
But you don't know where it will be."

6. The maiden scarcely noticed what the voice said, for the old man told her to go up stairs, where she would find two rooms, with a bed in each; she was to shake the beds well, and make them both. The young maiden went quickly upstairs, made her own bed, and without thinking of one for the old man, she lay down and went fast asleep. After a while, the old man came up to his room, and finding his bed not made, shook his head, and going into the room where the maiden lay sleeping, opened a trap door in the floor and let down the bed on which she lay into the cellar beneath.

7. Meanwhile the woodcutter returned home in the evening, very late and found fault with his wife for having left him the whole day hungry. "It is not my fault," she said; "I sent the maiden with your dinner at noon, and I suppose she must have lost her way; she will be back again to-morrow, no doubt." Before day, however, the woodcutter had to be off to the forest, and desired his wife to send the second daughter with his dinner. "I will carry a bag of flax seed with me this time," he said. "As the seeds are larger than the millet she will see them more easily, and will not be likely to lose her way."

8. But at noon when the maiden went with her father's dinner the flax seed had gone; the birds of the forest, as on the day before, had picked them all up, so that there was none left. She also wandered about all day, and at last found a good supper and a night's lodging in the old man's cottage; but she also never thought of feeding the animals or of making the old man's bed, so at night, while she slept, he opened the trap-door and let her down into the cellar below as he had done her sister.

9. On the third morning, the woodcutter told his wife; "You must send our youngest daughter with my dinner to-day; she is always good and obedient; she will not lose her way as her sisters have done; they wander about like wild bees when they swarm."

The mother, however, would not listen.

"No," she said; "why should I lose my dearest child, now that the others are gone?"

10. "Don't fear," he said; "the maiden will never wander,

she is too clever and sensible; besides, I will take a quantity of peas with me and strew them in the way, to show her the right path; they are much larger than flax seed, and will be sure to remain."

So the next day the mother, with much advice and caution, sent her youngest daughter to the forest. She carried a basket on her arm, but there were no peas to guide her; they were all in the crops of the pigeons, and therefore she knew not which path to take.

11. She was very unhappy, and thought how hungry her poor father would be, and how her mother would fret if she remained away all night. However, in her wanderings after dark, she also saw the light, and came as her sisters had done to the house in the wood. She went in and begged for a night's lodging so gently, that the man with the white beard said to his animals:

"Little chicks and spotted cow,
Shall we keep her here or no?"

The voice answered, "Yes", and presently the maiden went over to the stove where the animals lay, stroked the smooth feathers of the cock and hen with her hand, and rubbed the spotted cow between the horns.

12. When the old man told her to go and cook some supper, she got it ready very quickly, but when she put the dishes on the table she said:

"I am not going to feast myself with all these good things while the poor animals have nothing. There will be plenty left for me, and I shall take care of them first."

Then she went and fetched some barley, which she scattered before the chickens, and a whole armful of sweet hay for the cow.

"Eat that up, you dear animals," she said, "and perhaps you are thirsty, so I will bring you some fresh water."

13. Then she brought in a large basin of water, and the cock and hen sprang upon the brink, dipped their beaks and lifted their heads in the manner that birds always do drink, while the spotted cow took a long draught. After the animals were fed, the maiden seated herself at the table and ate what the old man had left for her. In a very little while the fowls had their heads behind their

wings, and the cow began to blink her eyes, so the maiden said:

“Shall we go to rest?”

And the old man cried:

“Little chicks and spotted cow,
Shall we let her sleep here now?”

And they replied quickly:

“Yes, for she is very good—

She has brought us drink and food.”

14. Then the maiden went up stairs, shook both beds, and made them up, and presently the old man came to his room, and when he laid himself on the bed his white beard reached nearly to his feet. The maiden also said her prayers, and lying down, slept peacefully till midnight, when a number of strange noises awoke her. The corners of the house were creaking and cracking, the doors sprang open and struck against the walls. The rafters groaned as if their joints were broken and separated; the stairs were turning upside down, and at last there was a crash as if the roof and the walls had fallen in together. Then all was still.

15. The maiden had been too frightened to move, and all had happened so quickly that she would hardly have had time to do so. But now, finding she was not hurt, and still in her comfortable bed, she lay quiet and went to sleep again. But in the morning, when the bright sunshine awoke her, what a sight met her eyes! She was lying in a noble room, and everything around her was as splendid as the furniture of a royal palace. The walls were covered with golden flowers on a silken ground. The bed was of ivory, and the covering of red velvet, and on a chair near it stood a pair of slippers covered with pearls.

16. The maiden fancied herself in a dream, but while she wondered three neatly dressed servants came in and asked her what they could do for her. “Nothing,” she replied, “only go away, and I will get up and cook the old man’s breakfast for him, and give those dear animals their food.” She dressed herself quickly and went to the old man’s room; but what was her astonishment to see lying on the bed, a strange man asleep! While she stood and saw with surprise that he was young and handsome, he awoke, raised himself and said:

17. “Don’t go away; I am a king’s son and a wicked witch changed me into a gray-bearded old man. My castle was changed

into the wooden house, and my servants into a cock, a hen, and a spotted cow. The spell was never to be broken unless a maiden came to visit us who had a kind heart, and who was as careful to feed poor animals as human beings, and you are that maiden. And at midnight, while we slept, we were all, through you, set free; the old wooden house is again a royal castle, and the animals are restored to their former shape as my servants. I will now send them to fetch your father and mother, that they may be present at our marriage, for you are to be my wife."

18. "But where are my sisters?" she asked.

"I have shut them in the cellar," he replied; "but to-morrow I will send them to work in the kitchen till they have learned that animals require to be fed and kindly treated, as well as human beings."

Robinson Raises Barley and Rice.

1. One day I made a rummage through my effects and found a bag which came from the wreck and which, as I have before said, had in it some barley and wheat which seemed to have been eaten by the rats. Seeing nothing in the bag but husks and dust, and needing it for some other use, I shook the husks out of it on one side of my fence under the hill.

2. It was a little before the great rains that I threw this stuff away, taking no notice of it, and did not so much as ever remember that I had thrown anything there, when about a month after, I saw some few stalks of something green shooting out of the ground, which I at first thought might be some plant I had not seen. Judge of my surprise, when after a little longer time, I saw about ten or twelve ears come out which were perfect green barley of the same kind as that which we raise at home.

3. At first this seemed very strange to me, but I thought me of the bag of chicken feed, the contents of which I had thrown on that very place. It was then all very plain, for there must have been ten or twelve grains that the rats had not found.

4. This I had thrown, without knowing it myself, in the place best intended for its growth, which was in the shade of a high rock, where the sun could not burn it up when the rains ceased.

I carefully saved the ears of this barley, you may be sure, and laid up every grain, that I might sow them all, hoping to have in time enough to supply me with bread. Besides this barley, there were twenty or thirty stalks of rice which I kept with the same care, and whose use was of the same kind—to make me bread or rather food; for I found ways to cook it up without baking, though I did that also after some time.

5. My next effort at farming was one of the greatest mistakes I have ever made. The rains having ceased, I now thought it a proper time to sow, so taking the grain that I had, with so much care, kept for this time, and making ready a piece of ground as well as I could with my wooden spade, I marked the ground off into two parts and sowed it. As I did so, however, it came into my mind that it would be better not to use all the seed at one time, as I was not sure that this was the proper time; so I sowed about two thirds of the seed, leaving about a handful of each.

6. It was a great comfort to me afterwards, that I did so, for not one grain of that sowed this time came to anything; for the dry months came on and the earth had no rain after the seed was in the ground. So it had no moisture to assist its growth, and it never came up at all. When I found my first seed did not grow, which I saw was caused by the dry weather, I looked for a moister piece of ground in which to try again.

7. I now dug up a piece of ground near my new bower, and sowed nearly all the rest of my seed in the last of February; and this having the rainy months of March and April to water it, sprang up very quickly and gave me a good crop. As I had only one third of my seed left, I did not dare to sow all of that; so I had but a small amount at the last to sow, hence my whole crop was not more than half a peck of each kind. But this mistake taught me the proper season to sow; and that I might expect two seed times and two harvests each year.

8. I was now in the months of November and December expecting my crop of barley and rice. The ground I had dug up for them was not great as I had so little seed. But now, just as my crop gave a good promise, of a sudden I found I was in danger of losing it all again in a way which I found hard to prevent. The goats and the little beasts which I called hares, having tasted the

sweetness of the blade, lay in it night and day, as soon as it came up, and ate it so close that it could get no time to grow up into the stalk.

9. This I saw no help for except to make a fence about it in the shape of a close hedge, which I did with a great deal of toil; and the more because it had to be done quickly. However, as the piece of ground was so small, I got it well fenced in about three weeks time; and shooting some of them in the daytime, I set my dog to care for it at night, tying him up to a stake at the gate, when he would stand and bark all night; so in a little while the grain got a good start, grew very strong and well, and began to ripen apace.

10. But as the beasts ate my grain while it was in the blade, so the birds were as likely to eat it now when it was in the ear; for going along by the place to see how it grew, I saw my little crop being eaten by fowls of I know not how many kinds who stood, as it were, waiting till I should be gone. I at once shot among them, and I had no sooner done so, than there rose up a little cloud of birds which I had not seen at all, from the grain itself.

11. Anger arose within me for I could see that in a few days they would devour all my hopes, that I should be starved, and never be able to raise a crop at all. What to do I could not tell. However, I made up my mind not to lose the crop though I should watch it day and night. In the first place, I went among it to see what damage was already done, and found that they had spoiled a good deal of it, but as it was yet too green for them, the loss was not so great but that the rest was like to be a good crop if it could be saved.

12. I stayed by it to load my gun, and then coming away I could see the thieves sitting upon all the trees about me, as if they only waited for me to be gone. This was their true purpose, for as I walked off as if I were going, I was no sooner out of their sight, but they dropped down one by one into the grain again. I then came up to the hedge, fired again, and killed three of them. These I hung up in plain sight and it had the effect I wished for; for the fowls not only would not come at the grain, but in short, left all that part of the island and I never saw a bird near the place as long as my scare-crows hung there.

13. This I was very glad of you may be sure, and about the latter end of December, which was our second harvest of the year, I reaped the crop. I had no sickle with which to cut it, and the best I could do was to make one as well as I could out of one of the broad swords which I had saved among the arms out of the ship. However, as the crop was but small I had no trouble to harvest it. In short I cut nothing off but the heads and took them away in a great basket which I had made.

14. I then rubbed it out with my hands. This done, I found that out of my half peck of seed, I had near two bushels of rice and more than two bushels of barley. As this was not as yet enough to keep me in food from one harvest to the next, it seemed best not to taste any of this crop but to preserve it all for seed against the next season.

15. As I now had so large an amount of seed, it became needful to make ready a large piece of ground which I did, and after driving away the beasts and birds as I did before, I found that I had of the barley about twenty bushels and of the rice as much more. After much thought, it came to my mind that the forty bushels of grain were much more than I could eat in one year. I then resolved to sow just the same every year as I sowed the last, in hopes that it would fully provide me with bread from year to year.

The Fairy Flower. (H. W. Beecher.)

1. Once there was a little girl whose name was Clara. She had a very kind heart, but she was an only child and had been petted so much that she was like to become very selfish. Too late her mother lamented that she had indulged her so much, and strove to repair the mischief, and to make Clara think of other people's happiness, and not solely of her own. On some days, nothing could be more charming than Clara's ways. She was gentle and obliging, and sang all day long, and made every one who came near her, happy by her agreeable manners.

2. Then everybody admired her and her mother and aunt were sure that she was cured of her pettish ways. But the very next day, all her charming ways were exchanged. She carried a moody face. She was no longer pleasant, and every one who came near her

felt the chill of her manner, as if an east wind were blowing with her breath. One summer night, after such a miserable day, Clara went to her room. The moon was at its full, and poured through the window in such floods that she needed no other light.

3. Clara sat down by the window very unhappy. She thought over the day, and wondered at herself, and tried to imagine why it was that on some days she was so happy and on others so wretched. As she mused, she laid her head back on the easy chair. No sooner had she shut her eyes, than a strange thing happened. An old man, very feeble, came in, and in his basket, which he seemed hardly able to bear, was a handful of flowers and two great stones. He came to Clara and said, "My daughter, will you help me, for I am too old to carry this load; please make it lighter?"

4. Then Clara looked at him with pouting, and said, "Go away!" Then he said, "I am poor and suffering. Will you not lighten my load?" Then Clara condescended to take the flowers out of his basket. They were very beautiful, and she laid them in her lap. The old man said:

"My daughter, you have not lightened my basket—you have only taken the pleasant things out of it, and left the heavy, heavy stones. Oh, please lift one of them out of the basket!" Then Clara was angry and said:

"No, get you gone—I will not touch those dirty stones!"

5. No sooner had she said this, than the old man began to change before her, and became so bright and white that he looked like a column of crystal. Then he took one of the stones and cast it out of the window and it flew and flew, and fell down on the eastern side of the grove, where the sun shone first every morning—and close by it ran a brook that laughed and loitered and sported all day and night, and played with everything that would come to it. And then the crystal old man took the flowers out of her lap, and they were wet with moisture, and he shook them over her head and said:

"Change to a flower! Go and stand by the stone, till your shadow shall be marked upon the rock."

6. In a second, Clara was growing by the side of a wide flat stone, and the moon cast the shadow of a beautiful flower, with long and slender stem, upon the rock. She was very wretched,

and the dew came and comforted her, and in the morning she could not help looking at herself in the brook, that came close up to the stone, and she saw how beautiful she was. All day her shadow fell upon the rock, and when the sun went away, the shadow went away too. All night she threw a pale shadow upon the rock, and in the morning, when the moon went away, the shadow went away too.

7. And the rock lay still, all day and all night, and did not care for the flower, nor feel its shadow. And she longed, and longed, and longed; but what could a tender flower do with a hard rock? And the flower asked the brook, "Can you help me?" And the brook laughed out louder than it was laughing before, and said, "Ask the birds." And so she asked a Bobolink, and he came frisking to her, with a wonderful speech in Latin, Greek and Sanscrit, with some words from the great language that was before all languages.

8. And he alit upon the flower, and teetered up and down, till she thought her back would break; but nothing could she learn how to make her shadow stay on the rock. Then she asked a spider; and he spun a web from her bright blossoms, and fastened it to the rock, and bent her over, and tied her up, till she feared she should never get loose. But all his nice films did her no good, and her shadow would not stay on the rock.

9. Then she asked the wind to help her, and the wind blew away the spider's web, and blew so hard that the flower lay its whole length upon the rock, but when the wind left her and she rose up, there was no shadow there! And she said—"What is beauty worth, if it grows by the side of a stone that does not feel it, nor care for it?"

Then she asked the dew to help her. And the dew said, "How can I help you? I live contentedly in darkness. I put on my beauty only to please other things. I let the sun come through my drops, though I know it will consume me."

10. The flower said, "I wish I were dew. I would do some good. Now my beauty does me no good, and I am wasting it every day upon a rock." When the flower breathed this benevolent wish, there were flutters and whispers all around but the flower thought it was only the brook. The next day came that way a beautiful

girl. She was gathering ferns and mosses, and flowers. Whenever she saw a tuft of moss she said, "Please, dear moss, may I take you?" And when she saw a beautiful branch with scarlet leaves, she said, "Dear bush, may I take these leaves?"

11. And then she saw a beautiful Columbine growing by the edge of the rock, and she said, "Oh, sweet Columbine, may I pluck you?" And the flower said, "Please, I must not go till my shadow is fastened on the rock." Then the young lady took from her case a pencil and in a moment traced the shadow of the Columbine upon the rock, and when she had done, she reached her hand and took the stem low down and broke it off.

12. Then Clara sprang up from her chair by the window, and there stood her mother saying:

"My dear daughter, you should not fall asleep by an open window, not even in summer, my child. How damp you are! Come, hasten to bed."

It was many days before Clara could persuade herself that she had only dreamed. It was many months before she told the dream to her mother. And when she did, her mother said:

"Ah, Clara, would that all girls might dream, if only it made them as good as your dream has made you."

The Countryman and the Snake. (Aesop).

A man who lived in the country, found, one frosty day in the depth of winter, a Snake under a hedge almost dead with the cold. Having pity on the poor creature, he brought it home, and laid it upon the hearth near the fire. Revived by the heat, it reared itself up, and with dreadful hissings attacked the wife and children of its benefactor. The man, hearing their cries, rushed in, and with a club, which he brought in his hand, soon killed the snake. "Vile wretch!" said he; "is this the reward you make to him who saved your life? Die, as you deserve; but a single death is too good for you."

The Fox and the Stork.

A Fox one day invited a Stork to dine with him, and, wishing to be amused at his expense, put the soup which he had for dinner

into a large flat dish, so that, while he himself could lap it up quite well, the Stork could only dip in the tips of his long bill. Some time after, the Stork, bearing his treatment in mind, invited the Fox to take dinner with him. He, in his turn, put some minced meat into a long and narrow-necked vessel, into which he could easily put his bill, while Master Fox was forced to be content with licking what ran down the sides of the vessel. The Fox then remembered his old trick, and could not but admit that the stork had well paid him off.

The Elfin-Grove.

1. "I hope," said a woodman one day, to his wife, "that the children will not run into that fir grove by the side of the river; who they are that have come to live there, I cannot tell, but I am sure that it looks more dark and gloomy than ever, and some queer-looking beings are to be seen lurking about it every night, as I am told." The woodman could not say that they brought any ill luck as yet, whatever they were; for all the village had thriven more than ever since they came; the fields looked gayer and greener, and even the sky was of a deeper blue. Not knowing what to say of them, the farmer very wisely let his new friends alone, and in truth troubled his head very little about them.

2. That very evening, little Mary and her playfellow, Martin, were playing at hide-and-seek in the valley. "Where can he be hid," said she; "he must have gone into the fir grove," and down she ran to look. Just then she spied a little dog that jumped round her and wagged his tail, and led her on towards the wood. Then he ran into it, and she soon jumped up the bank to look for him, but was overjoyed to see, instead of a gloomy grove of firs, a delightful garden, where flowers and shrubs of every kind grew upon turf of the softest green; gay butterflies flew about her, the birds sang sweetly, and, what was strangest, the prettiest little children sported about on all sides, some twining the flowers, and others dancing in rings upon the shady spots beneath the trees.

3. In the midst, instead of the hovels of which Mary had heard, there was a palace that dazzled her eyes with its brightness. For a while, she gazed on the fairy scene around her, till at last

one of the little dancers ran up to her, and said, "And you are come at last to see us? We have often seen you play about, and wished to have you with us." Then she plucked some of the fruit that grew near; and Mary, at the first taste, forgot her home and wished only to see and know more of her fairy friends.

4. Then they led her about with them, and showed her all their sports. One while they danced by moonlight on the primrose banks; at another time they skipped from bough to bough among the trees that hung over the cooling streams; for they moved as lightly and easily through the air as on the ground; and Mary went with them everywhere, for they bore her in their arms wherever they wished to go.

5. Sometimes they would throw seeds on the turf, and directly little trees sprang up; and then they would set their feet upon the branches, while the trees grew under them, till they danced upon the boughs in the air, wherever the breezes carried them; and again the trees would sink down into the earth, and land them safely at their bidding.

6. At other times, they would go and visit the palace of their queen; and there the richest food was spread before them, and the softest music was heard; and there, all around grew flowers which were always changing their hues, from scarlet to purple and yellow and green. Sometimes they went to look at the heaps of gold which were piled up in the royal stores; for little dwarfs were always employed in searching the earth for it. Small as this fairy land looked from without, it seemed to have no end; a mist hung around it to shield it from the eyes of men; and some of the little elves sat perched upon the outermost trees, to keep watch lest the step of man should break in and spoil the charm.

7. "And who are you?" said Mary one day. "We are what are called elves in your world," said one whose name was Gossamer, and who had become her dearest friend; "we are told you talk a great deal about us; some of our tribes like to work you mischief, but we who live here seek only to be happy; we meddle little with mankind; but when we do come among them, it is to do them good."

8. "And where is your queen?" said little Mary. "Hush! hush! you cannot see or know her; you must leave us before she

comes back, which will now be very soon, for mortal step cannot come where she is. But you will know that she is here when you see the meadows gayer, the rivers more sparkling, and the sun brighter."

9. Soon afterwards, Gossamer told Mary the time was come to bid her farewell, gave her a ring in token of their friendship, and led her to the edge of the grove. "Think of me," said she, "but beware how you tell what you have seen, or try to visit any of us again, for if you do, we shall quit this grove and come back no more." Turning back, Mary saw nothing but the gloomy fir grove she had known before. "How frightened my father and mother will be!" thought she as she looked at the sun, which had risen some time.

10. "They will wonder where I have been all night, and yet I must not tell them what I have seen." She hastened homewards, wondering, however, as she went, to see that the leaves, which were yesterday so fresh and green, were now falling dry and yellow around her. The cottage, too, seemed changed, and, when she went in, there sat her father looking some years older than when she saw him last; and her mother, whom she hardly knew, was by his side.

11. Close by was a young man; "Father," said Mary, "who is this?" "Who are you that calls me father?" said he; "are you—no you cannot be—our long-lost Mary?" But they soon saw that it was their Mary; and the young man, who was her old friend and playfellow, Martin, said, "No wonder you had forgotten me in seven years; do you not remember how we parted seven years ago while playing in the field? We thought you were quite lost; but we are glad to see that some one has taken care of you and brought you home at last." Mary said nothing, for she could not tell all; but she wondered at the strange tale, and felt gloomy at the change from fairy land to her father's cottage.

12. Little by little she came to herself, thought of her story as a mere dream, and soon became Martin's bride. Everything seemed to thrive about them; and Mary called her first little girl Elfie, in memory of her friends. The little thing was loved by every one. It was pretty and good-tempered; Mary thought that it was very like a little elf; and all, without knowing why, called it the fairy child.

13. One day, while Mary was dressing her little Elfie, she found a piece of gold hanging round her neck by a silken thread, and knew it to be of the same sort as she had seen in the hands of the fairy dwarfs. Elfie seemed sorry at its being seen, and said that she had found it in the garden. But Mary watched her and soon found that she went every afternoon to sit by herself in a shady place behind the house; so one day she hid herself to see what the child did there; and to her great wonder, Gossamer was sitting by her side.

14. "Dear Elfie," she was saying, "your mother and I used to sit thus when she was young and lived among us. Oh! if you could but come and do so too! but since our queen came to us it cannot be; yet I will come and see you and talk to you, whilst you are a child; when you grow up we must part forever." Then she plucked one of the roses that grew around them, breathed gently upon it, and said, "Take this for my sake. It will keep its freshness a whole year."

15. Then Mary loved her little Elfie more than ever; and when she found that she spent some hours of almost every day with the elf, she used to hide herself and watch them without being seen, till one day, when Gossamer was bearing her little friend through the air from tree to tree, her mother was so frightened lest the child should fall, that she could not help screaming out, and Gossamer set her gently on the ground, seemed angry, and flew away.

16. But still she used sometimes to come and play with her little friend, and would soon have done so perhaps the same as before, had not Mary one day told her husband the whole story, for she could not bear to hear him always wondering and laughing at their little child's odd ways, and saying he was sure there was something in the fir grove that brought them no good. So to show him that all she said was true, she took him to see Elfie and the fairy; but no sooner did Gossamer know that he was there (which she did in an instant), than she changed herself into a raven, and flew off into the fir grove.

17. Mary burst into tears, and so did Elfie, for she knew she would see her dear friend no more; but Martin was restless and bent upon following up his search after the fairies; so, when night came he stole away toward the grove. When he came to it, nothing

was to be seen but the gloomy firs and the old hovels; and the thunder rolled, and the wind groaned and whistled through the trees. It seemed that all about him was angry; so he turned homewards frightened at what he had done.

18. In the morning, all the neighbors flocked around, asking one another what the noise and bustle of last night could mean; and when they looked about them, their trees looked blighted, and the meadows parched, the streams were dried up and everything seemed troubled and sorrowful; but they all thought that somehow or other the fir grove had not near so forbidding a look as it used to have. Strange stories were told, how one had heard flutterings in the air, another had seen the fir grove as it were, alive with little beings that flew away from it. Each neighbor told his tale, and all wondered what could have happened; but Mary and her husband knew what was the matter, and bewailed their folly; for they foresaw that their kind neighbors to whom they owed all their luck were gone forever.

19. Among the bystanders, none told a wilder story than the old ferryman who plied across the river at the foot of the grove; he told how at midnight his boat was carried away, and how hundreds of little beings seemed to load it with treasures; how a strange piece of gold was left for him in the boat, as his fare; how the air seemed full of fairy forms fluttering around; and how at last a great train passed over, that seemed to be guarding their leader to the meadows on the other side; and how he heard soft music floating around as they flew; and how sweet voices sang as they hovered over his head:

20. “Fairy Queen!
 Fairy Queen!
 Mortal steps are on the green;
 Come away!
 Haste away!
 Fairies, guard your Queen!
 Hither, hither, fairy Queen!
 Lest thy silvery wing be seen;
 O’er the sky
 Fly, fly, fly!
 Fairies, guard your lady Queen!

- O'er the sky
Fly, fly, fly!
Fairies, guard your Queen!"
21. "Fairy Queen!
Fairy Queen!
Thou hast passed the fateful scene;
Now we may
Down and play,
O'er the lovely green!
Lightly, lightly, fairy Queen!
Trip it gently o'er the green;
Fairies gay,
Trip away,
Round about your lady Queen!
Fairies gay,
Trip away,
Round about your Queen!"

22. Poor Elfie mourned their loss the most, and would spend whole hours in looking upon the rose that her playfellow had given her, and singing over it the pretty airs she had taught her; till at length when the year's charm had passed away and it began to fade, she planted the stalk in her garden, and there it grew and grew till she could sit under the shade of it and think of her friend Gossamer.

The Two Mules. (Aesop).

Two mules were being driven along a lonely road. One was laden with corn and the other with gold. The one that carried the gold was so proud of his burden that, although it was very heavy, he would not for the world have the least bit of it taken away. He trotted along with stately step, his bells jingling as he went. By and by some robbers fell upon them. They let the mule that carried the corn go free; but they seized the gold which the other carried, and, as he kicked and struggled to prevent their robbing him, they stabbed him to the heart. In dying, he said to the other mule, "I see, brother, it is not always well to have grand duties to perform. If, like you, I had only served a miller, this sad state would not now be mine."

The Frog and the Hen. (Aesop).

"Dear me!" said a Frog to himself one day, as he heard a Hen cackling near his bog; "what a very noisy creature that Hen is to be sure! Mrs. Hen," he called out, "do be quiet; you will alarm the whole village. Really, one would think you had found something very grand. What is the cause or meaning of all this uproar?"

"My dear sir, have patience with me; I have laid an egg."

"Upon my word, you make a great fuss over one egg."

"Well, well, I am sorry to see you so ill-tempered at my little song of joy, when I have submitted without a murmur to your croaking all day and night long. But I claim to have done some good, though that may be small. You, on the contrary, should hold your tongue, for you certainly do no good whatever."

Fortune and the Boy. (Aesop).

A little Boy quite tired out with play, laid down and fell sound asleep close to the edge of a deep well. Fortune came by, and gently waking him, said, "My dear Boy, believe me, I have saved your life. If you had fallen in, everybody would have laid the blame on me; but tell me truly, now, would the fault have been yours or mine?"

Robinson's Second Trip.

1. I now had a great mind to see the whole island. I had before gone up the brook and so on to where I built my bower, where I had an opening quite to the sea on the other side of the island. I now resolved to travel quite across to the seashore on that side; so taking my gun, a hatchet, and my dog; much more powder and shot than usual; two biscuit cakes and a great bunch of raisins in my pouch for food, I began my trip.

2. When I had passed the vale where my bower stood, I came within sight of the sea to the west, and it being a very clear day, I could see land—whether mainland or island I could not tell—lying, I should guess, some forty or fifty miles away. As I walked

along, I found that side of the island much more pleasant than mine, the open fields, sweet, with plenty of flowers and grass and full of very fine woods.

3. I saw many parrots and would like to have caught one, if possible to have kept it to be tamed, and taught to speak to me. I did, after some effort, catch a young one which I knocked down with a stick. This I brought home but it was some years before I could make him speak. However, at last I taught him to call me by name very plainly. I found in the low ground, hares, as I thought them to be, and foxes; but not at all like the kinds with which I had before met.

4. I found that I had no want of food, and of that which was very good too. Of meat these three sorts—goats, pigeons and turtle, which added to my grapes and other fruit, no market could have furnished a table better than I; and though my case was none too pleasant, yet I had cause to be very thankful, as I had plenty of the best, even to dainties.

5. As soon as I came to the seashore, it was a surprise to find that I had taken up my lot on the worst side of the island; for here indeed the shore was covered with countless turtles, while on the other side I had seen but three in a year and a half. Here was also any number of fowls of many kinds, some of which I had seen before and some not; and many of them good for the table.

6. I confess this side of the country was much more pleasant than mine, yet I had not the least mind to remove; for as I had my house all built with great comfort, it seemed all the while I was here as if I were away from home. I then went along the shore of the sea towards the north, I suppose about twelve miles; then setting up a pole upon the shore for a mark, I started for home again.

7. I took another way to come back than that I went, thinking that I could easily keep all the island so much in my sight that I could not miss finding my seaside home, but I found myself mistaken; for having come about two or three miles, I found myself in a very large valley; but so surrounded by hills, and those hills covered with dense woods that I could not see which was my way except by the sun.

8. It so happened that the weather came with a haze for three or four days, while I was in this valley; and not being able to see

the sun, I could find no way to get out except by going back to the sea, looking for my post and coming home the same way as I went.

9. One day, while nearing the place where was my bower, my dog caught a young kid. Seeing him about to kill it, I ran in and saved it alive. I had a great mind to bring it home if I could, for I had often been thinking whether it were not well to get a kid or two, and so raise a breed of tame goats, which might supply me when I no longer had powder and shot. So I made a collar to this little creature, and with a string which I made of some rope yarn, which I always had with me, I led him along till I came to my bower, where I placed him in the yard and left him.

10. I cannot express how good it seemed to me to come into my old tent and lie down in my hammock bed. This wandering about, without settled place of abode, had been so unpleasant to me, that my own home, as I called it to myself, was a perfect haven; and it did but render everything about me so homelike that I resolved I would never go a great way from it again, while it should be my lot to stay on the island.

11. I kept very quiet for a week to rest and regale myself after my long march; when most of the time was taken up in the affair of making a cage for my poll, who now began to be quite like an old friend. Then I began to think of the poor kid which I had left in the circle at the bower, and resolved to go and fetch it home or give it some food; so I went and found it where I left it, for indeed it could not get out, and was almost starved for want of food.

12. I went and cut grass and branches of such shrubs as it would eat, and having fed it, I tied it as before, to lead it away. But it was so tame with being hungry that I had no need to have tied it, for it followed me like a dog; and as I still fed it, the little creature became so loving, so gentle and so fond, that it also became from that time one of my family, and would never leave me afterwards.

13. The thirteenth day of September now came and I had been on the island two years; I could see no prospects of getting away more than when I first came. I spent the whole day in giving humble and hearty thanks to God for His great mercies. It was now that I began to feel how much more happy this life I now led was, than the vile and wicked life I had led all the past part of my days. I also gave thanks that He had so shed His Light upon my

mind that since my illness I had come to see how much better it was to live here all alone through my whole life, than to return to the errors of my way.

14. I now read the word of God daily and found great comfort therein. One morning, being very sad, I opened the Bible upon these words: "I will never, never leave thee, nor forsake thee;" at once it came to me that these words were directly for me, else why should they have come just at the time when I was so sorely in need of comfort. What matters it then, said I, if the whole world forsake me when God is with me. Filled with this thought, I began another year in a far more happy state of mind, than ever would have been possible without the blessing and support of His presence.

The Wolf and the Lamb. (Aesop).

A hungry Wolf one day saw a Lamb drinking at a stream, and wished to frame some decent excuse for making him his prey. "What do you mean by muddling the water I am going to drink?" fiercely said he to the Lamb. "Pray forgive me," meekly answered the Lamb; "I should be sorry in any way to displease you, but, as the stream runs from you to me, you will see that such cannot be the case." "That is all very well," said the Wolf; "but you know you spoke ill of me behind my back a year ago." "Nay, believe me," replied the Lamb, "I was not then born." "It must have been your brother, then," growled the Wolf. "It cannot have been, for I never had any," answered the Lamb. "I know it was one of your lot," rejoined the Wolf, "so make no more idle excuses." He then seized the poor Lamb, carried him off to the woods, and ate him.

The Two Frogs. (Aesop).

One hot summer, the lake in which two Frogs lived, was completely dried up, and they had to set off in search of water elsewhere. Coming to a very deep well in which was water of delightful coolness, one of the Frogs proposed that they should jump in at once. "Wait a bit," cried the other; "if that should dry up, how would we get out again?"

A Friend in Need. (Arabian Folklore).

1. There was once in the far east, in times so long ago that nobody exactly knows when, a certain wise old crow. This wily bird had built his nest in a very large and shady tree on the outskirts of a forest. From this point of vantage he could see most things that were going on, whilst he himself was completely hidden from view.

2. One day it chanced that he saw a man of a very bad face and slouching form, walking with sly steps towards the forest. He carried a net over his shoulder, and a staff in his hand. The crow cocked his head on one side. "That ragged, creepy, crawly man is up to no good. I am sure he means mischief; perhaps to me, perhaps to some other. I'll watch him closely," said the crow to himself.

3. Then he saw the man, who was a fowler, fix his net, scatter seeds all over it, and with a grin of mean delight on his face, hide himself some little distance off.

"I felt sure he was a bad lot," mused the crow, gazing nowhere in particular.

4. The man waited a short time. Then, in the near distance, there came a flight of doves. They approached the forest, and their leader, a beautiful ringdove, saw the scattered seeds. She gave a certain signal, and down flew all the birds and began to eat the seeds. But, alas! at once they were caught in the meshes of the net; and the more they fluttered and flustered, the deeper they became tired and entangled.

5. "Listen, sisters!" cried out the ringdove; "it is in vain that you try each one to rescue only yourself, you do but tie the tighter the bonds of the enemy. And see him there," and she craned her neck, "cruel and crafty, slowly coming toward us. But if you will only do as I bid you, we shall yet be saved. Now, let all unite in one effort to raise the net, then we will fly with it to some place of safety, and escape from the toils of this bad man."

6. The ringdove gave the signal, all the birds spread out their wings, and after a short but plucky struggle they lifted the net and flew with it high into the air. The fowler, for a moment, was mute with astonishment; then in an angry voice he cried,

"They have got my net, the cunning little wretches. But not for long, I guess; caught as they are, they will fly a little way, and then fall. I will follow them," he muttered.

7. "And I will follow, too," cawed the crow, "and see what becomes of doves, net, and fowler." For a weary distance the man pursued the doves, but they flew steadily onwards, until at length they were lost to view. Then, in despair, bemoaning his hard lot, he gave up the quest. The crow also steadily flew after the doves, and at length saw them alight.

The ringdove cooed, "Zirack, Zirack, my friend!"

A little mouse quickly peeped from its hole and squeaked, "Who is there, who is there?"

"Your friend the ringdove!"

8. In a moment, with alert little eyes darting here, there, and everywhere, the mouse ran out from its hole.

"How did you get into this sad plight?" in dismay he cried.

"Alas!" moaned the dove, "many seeds were scattered under this net, and in my greedy haste to eat the seeds I failed to observe the net. But kind friend, you can, and I know you will, help us out of our trouble."

"Certainly, I will help you," said the mouse, and at once began gnawing the meshes that entwined the ringdove.

9. "Ah, my brother," cooed the ringdove sweetly, "first help my sisters to escape, and when they are all free, it will be my time."

But, heedless of what she said, the mouse continued to nibble the strings that half strangled the poor ringdove.

"Nay, brother, I beseech you leave me to the last," she implored, "and set at liberty all my companions."

"Let me save you first, and the others afterwards, little sister," pleaded the mouse. But the dove resolutely shook her head. "Many of us are bound, and I fear if you release me first, you will tire, and fail, perhaps, to release the others."

10. "Sadly you misjudge me, sister," said Zirack. And to prove how wrong she was, he began to nibble at the strings that were wound around the other birds, and then, when they were all free, he released the ringdove. The doves gratefully thanked the

mouse for his goodness, and flew away. And the mouse returned to his hole.

The crow, who had been a silent witness all this time, now said to himself, "Ah! would that I had such a brother!"

11. "Zirack! Zirack!" he called, like the dove.

"Who is there? and what do you want?" squeaked the cautious little mouse.

"A crow who has just witnessed your good nature and kindness to the doves, and greatly desires your friendship."

"Rubbish!" said the mouse, keeping carefully within its hole. "How can there be friendship between you and me, seeing that you devour me and my kind, and that we are good food for you?"

12. "It is true that you make fit food for us. I would not deny it," replied the crow. "But love is lasting and food is fleeting; and truly do I desire your friendship. Trust me, little brother."

"Nay," sighed the mouse, "how can I trust you? There is no good feeling between us. And it is you who kill, while we cannot harm you," Zirack added.

13. "Little brother, I love you," answered the crow, "and I will not stir from your door or taste food until I see and speak with you face to face."

"So be it; I will trust you," said the mouse; and without further talk he came out, and they kissed and embraced one another.

14. For a long time these two lived happily together.

"Little brother," one day said the crow, whose thoughts went back to his own dwelling, "I like not your house, it is so beset by dangers; I know a certain forest, far, far away from the haunts of men, where I have a friend—a turtle—who lives in a pond close by. Let us go thither together; I will carry you."

"Very good; I am quite willing," said the mouse.

15. The crow took hold of the mouse's tail, and flew with him to the forest. The turtle saw them approach, and because he feared the mouse, he hid himself in the water.

As soon as the crow had alighted, he called out to the turtle, and bade him come and speak to his new friend, telling him, in the same breath,—crows are very long-winded,—how bravely the mouse had released the doves from the fowler's net.

"Little mouse, I pray you let me be your friend," said the turtle.

16. "Gladly," said the mouse, and he held out a paw, and the turtle put out a fin, and they shook hands on the bargain.

At once they began chatting together, telling to one another their different troubles. Whilst they were gossiping, a fawn came running up. The turtle at once dived with a flop into the water; the mouse ran into a handy little hole that stood by; and the crow perched on a bough of a tree. With great care, the cautious old bird looked around to see if anyone were hunting the fawn. When he saw there was no one in pursuit, he called aloud to the turtle and the mouse, "It is quite safe, friends; come out, come out!"

17. "Let me beg of you to have no fear of me," said the fawn politely; "I am only in search of water," he explained.

"Come here and drink your fill, good sir," said the turtle, reassured by the gentle tones of the fawn.

After the fawn had drunk enough water, the three friends gathered around him, and in coaxing tones pleaded that he would tell them whence he came and all his history.

18. The fawn was much pleased by these kind attentions. He drew up his neck, half closed his lovely eyes, and in a sad, weary voice said: "Alas! alas! kind sirs, my history is a pitiful one. All my youth I lived in a desert place, but it was my home. I was born there, and I lived there happily. One day, alack! some hunters gathered together against me, from place to place they pursued me; and one youth, with nimble, fleet feet and terrible eyes, nearly took away my life. In fear and trembling I fled, and since then I have wandered, hungry and worn, over many places"—

19. "Brother," they all said, "stay now here with us. There is plenty of pasture, and you shall be as one of us."

"Willingly do I accept your offer," said the fawn.

Every day it was the pleasant custom of the four friends—after they had eaten food each after its kind—to meet at a certain spot and gossip over the events of the day.

One day the turtle, the mouse, and the crow assembled as usual, but the fawn did not come.

20. "Where can the fawn be?" asked the turtle.

"In truth I do not know," squeaked Zirack.

"Much I fear some harm has befallen him, or he surely would be here," cawed the crow.

"Brother, you are fleet of wing and strong of sight. Do go and look for him; my heart misgives me," sighed the turtle.

The crow needed no second bidding, but swiftly soared into the air, and there in the distance he beheld the fawn lying in a pit caught in a hunter's snare.

21. "Alas! brother," sadly sang out the crow, "how did this misfortune befall you?"

"Help me without delay," moaned the fawn, "or I must surely die!"

"Have hope, and fear not. We will help you," with great cheeriness replied the crow.

With a whizz and a whirr up he flew into the air, and quickly returned to the turtle and the mouse.

22. "Our brother has fallen into the snare of our enemy, man," panting for breath, he hoarsely cried out. "He is caught in the hunter's net."

"Hurry, brother, hurry," said the turtle to the mouse. "You only can deliver him."

The mouse instantly scampered off, the crow flying low to show him the way.

It was a very strong cord, and it took a very long time to nibble it; and when he was halfway through who should come lumbering up but the turtle.

23. "Oh, my brother," moaned the fawn, "why have you come here? If this hunter comes, and the mouse has cut through these strong cords which bind me, fleetly I can run away, and the crow will fly rapidly upwards, and the mouse cunningly hide in a hole. But you, my poor friend, who calm us when we are alarmed, what will you do?"

24. "What is the value of friendship if we cannot console one another in distress?" sturdily replied the turtle. "I have come to comfort you."

The mouse exerted all his strength, and gnawed and gnawed at the meshes. The last one was cut, and gladly the fawn sprang up.

But, alas! at this very moment, with quick steps, the hunter was seen approaching. Like an arrow the fawn sped off; the crow

promptly flew to a tree; the mouse craftily hid himself in a hole; the poor turtle remained in view.

25. The hunter, angry to find his prey had escaped, roughly stooped down and bound the turtle tightly with a cord and slung him over his shoulder.

"It is better than nothing at all," said he.

As soon as he had departed, the mouse, the crow, and the fawn came out of their hiding places. "Ah, brothers, what shall we do?—what shall we do to release our poor friend?" they sadly asked one another.

26. They talked over many ways and means, but in each one there was always some weak spot. At length the mouse, with a shrill little cry, said, "I have it, I have it," and he jumped about with delight. "You, brother fawn, must go and lie down where the eyes of that pitiless hunter can perceive you, and pretend that you are severely wounded, and the crow must come and settle upon you as though waiting for you to die. When the man sees you, he will surely let go the turtle, and run, hoping to capture you. I at once will go to the turtle and gnaw away at his bonds. And to give me more time, when the hunter gets near you, jump up from the place and move slowly, so that he, thinking you sorely wounded, may be enticed to follow you again and again.

27. "Wise are the words of our brother," chimed the crow and fawn together.

The fawn at once hurried off, and when in sight of the hunter, he lay down and panted as though in agony, and the crow, after circling around him several times, alighted upon his body.

28. As soon as the hunter saw the fawn, he threw down the turtle, and began running with great speed towards the better prey. The fawn waited until he was within a few yards, and then with pretended pain, limped away. And so the chase went on, until the mouse had released the turtle. Then he squeaked, "Saved! saved!" At this welcome news, the fawn and the crow sped away in right good earnest.

29. Tired and worn out by his vain pursuit, the hunter returned for the turtle; but all he found was a piece of cord nibbled in a dozen places.

Neither Zirack nor the turtle could he see, for they had securely hidden themselves in holes. Gloomily the man returned to his home. And all the way, he kept muttering to himself, "How did the little reptile manage to gnaw through my cords, I wonder? I am fairly puzzled." And he kept shaking his head in greatest surprise.

30. This was a puzzle that worried him all his life long. And he wondered and wondered, but never found out, for the four friends kept their secret. And they lived happily together to a green old age, without any more mishaps.

The Playful Calf. (Aesop).

A Calf, full of play, seeing an Ox at the plow, could not resist insulting him. "What a sorry poor drudge are you," said he, "to bear that heavy yoke upon your neck, and with a plow at your tail all day, to go turning up the ground for a master. You are a wretched poor slave and know no better, or you would not do it. See what a happy life I lead! I go just where I please—sometimes in the cool shade, sometimes in the warm sunshine; and whenever I like, I drink at the clear and running brook." The Ox, not at all moved by this address, went quietly and calmly at his work, and in the evening, when his yoke was off, and he was going to take his rest, he saw the Calf, hung with garlands of flowers, being led off to be slain at sacrifice. He pitied him, but could not help saying as he passed, "Now, friend, whose condition is the better, yours or mine?"

The Bald Man. (Aesop).

A certain man, who wore a wig to conceal his baldness, was out hunting one day. A sudden gust of wind carried away his wig and showed his bald pate. His friends all laughed at the odd figure he made, but the old fellow, so far from being put out, laughed as heartily as any of them. "Is it any wonder," said he, "that another man's hair should not keep on my head when my own would not stay there?"

Jack the Giant-Killer. (From an old Chapbook).

1. In the reign of the famous King Arthur, there lived in Cornwall a lad named Jack, who was a boy of a bold temper, who took delight in hearing or reading of witches, giants and fairies; and who used to listen to the deeds of the knights of King Arthur's Round Table. In those days, there lived on an island off the coast of Cornwall, a huge giant named Cormoran, eighteen feet high and nine feet round; his fierce and savage looks were the terror of all who beheld him.

2. He dwelt in a gloomy cavern on the top of the mountain, and used to wade over to the mainland in search of prey; when he would throw half-a-dozen oxen upon his back, and tie three times as many sheep and hogs round his waist, and march back to his own abode. The giant had done this for many years when Jack resolved to destroy him. So he took a horn, a shovel, a pickaxe, his armor and a dark lantern, and one winter's evening went to the island.

3. There he dug a pit twenty-two feet deep and twenty broad. He covered the top over so as to make it look like solid ground. He then blew his horn so loudly, that the giant awoke and came out of his den, crying out: "You saucy villain! you shall pay for this. I'll boil you for my breakfast!" He had just finished, when, taking one step further, he tumbled headlong into the pit, and Jack struck him a blow on the head with his pickaxe which killed him. Jack returned home to cheer his friends with the news.

4. Another giant, called Blunderbore, vowed to be revenged on Jack if ever he should have him in his power. The giant kept an enchanted castle in the midst of a lonely wood; and some time after the death of Cormoran, Jack was passing through the wood, and being weary, sat down and went to sleep. The giant passing by and seeing Jack, carried him to his castle, where he locked him up in a large room. Soon after, the giant went to fetch his brother, who was likewise a giant, to take a meal off his flesh; and Jack saw with terror the two giants coming.

5. Jack, seeing in one corner of the room a strong cord, took courage, and making a slipknot at each end, he threw them over their heads, and tied it to the window bars; he then pulled till he had choked them. When they were black in the face he slid down

the rope and stabbed them to the heart. He next took a great bunch of keys from the pocket of Blunderbore, and went into the castle again. He made a strict search through all the rooms, and in one of them found three ladies tied up by the hair of their heads, and almost starved to death. They told him that their husbands had been killed by the giants, who had then condemned them to be starved to death, because they would not eat the flesh of their own dead husbands.

6. "Ladies," said Jack, "I have put an end to the monster and his wicked brother; and I give you this castle and all the riches it contains, to make amends for the dreadful sufferings you have undergone." He then very politely gave them the keys of the castle, and went further on his journey to Wales. As he had but little money, he went on as fast as possible. At length he came to a handsome house. Jack knocked at the door, when there came forth a Welsh giant. Jack said he was a traveler who had lost his way, on which the giant made him welcome, and let him into a room where there was a good bed to sleep in.

7. Jack took off his clothes quickly, but though he was weary he could not go to sleep. Soon after this he heard the giant walking backward and forward in the next room and saying to himself:

"Though here you lodge with me this night,
You shall not see the morning light;
My club shall dash your brains out quite!"

"Say you so?" thought Jack. "Are these your tricks upon travelers? But I hope to prove as cunning as you are." Then getting out of bed, he groped about the room, and at last found a large thick billet of wood. He laid it in his own place in the bed, and then hid himself in a dark corner of the room.

8. The giant, about midnight, entered the apartment, and with his club struck a many blows on the bed, in the very place where Jack had laid the log; and then went back to his own room, thinking he had broken all Jack's bones. Early in the morning Jack put a bold face upon the matter, and walked into the giant's room to thank him for his lodging. The giant started when he saw him, and began to stammer out: "Oh! dear me; is it you? Pray how did you sleep last night? Did you hear or see anything in the dead of the night?"

9. "Nothing worth speaking of," said Jack carelessly; "a rat, I believe, gave me three or four slaps with its tail, and disturbed me a little; but I soon went to sleep again."

The giant wondered more and more at this; yet he did not answer a word, but went to bring two great bowls of hastypudding for their breakfast. Jack wanted to make the giant believe that he could eat as much as himself, so he put a leathern bag inside his coat, and slipped the hastypudding into this bag while he seemed to put it into his mouth.

10. When breakfast was over, he said to the giant: "Now I will show you a fine trick. I can cure all wounds with a touch; I could cut off my head in one minute, and the next put it sound again on my shoulders. You shall see an example." He then took hold of the knife, ripped up the leathern bag, and all the hastypudding tumbled out upon the floor.

"Ods splutter hur nails!" cried the Welsh giant, who was ashamed to be outdone by such a little fellow as Jack, "hur can do that hurself;" so he snatched up the knife, plunged it into his own stomach, and in a moment dropped down dead.

11. Jack having hitherto been successful in all his undertakings, resolved not to be idle in the future; he, therefore, furnished himself with a horse, a cap of knowledge, a sword of sharpness, shoes of swiftness, and an invisible coat, the better to perform the wonderful enterprises that lay before him. He traveled over high hills, and on the third day he came to a large and spacious forest through which his road lay. Scarcely had he entered the forest, when he beheld a monstrous giant dragging along by the hair of their heads a handsome knight and his lady. Jack alighted from his horse and tying him to an oak tree, put on his invisible coat, under which he carried his sword of sharpness.

12. When he came up to the giant he made several strokes at him, but could not reach his body. He wounded his thighs in several places; and at length, putting both hands to his sword and aiming with all his might, cut off both his legs. Then Jack, setting his foot upon his neck, plunged his sword into the giant's body, when the monster gave a groan and expired. The knight and his lady thanked Jack for freeing them, and invited him to their house, to receive a proper reward for his services. "No," said Jack, "I

cannot be easy till I find out this monster's home. So taking the knight's directions, he mounted his horse, and soon after, came in sight of another giant, who was sitting on a block of timber waiting for his brother's return.

13. Jack alighted from his horse, and, putting on his invisible coat, approached and aimed a blow at the giant's head, but missing his aim he only cut off his nose. On this the giant seized his club and laid about him with all his might.

"Nay," said Jack, "if this be the case, I'd better dispatch you!" So jumping upon the block, he stabbed him in the back, when he dropped down dead. He then proceeded on his journey, and traveled over hills and dales, till reaching the foot of a high mountain, he knocked at the door of a lonely house, when an old man let him in.

14. When Jack was seated, the hermit thus addressed him: "My son, on the top of this mountain is an enchanted castle, kept by the giant Gantus and a vile wizard. I lament the fate of the duke's daughter, whom they seized as she was walking in her father's garden, and brought hither changed into a deer." Jack promised that, in the morning, at the risk of his life, he would break the enchantment; and after a sound sleep, he rose early, put on his invisible coat and got ready for the attempt.

15. When he had climbed to the top of the mountain, he saw two fiery griffins; but he passed between them without the least fear of danger, for they could not see him because of his invisible coat. On the castle gate he found a golden trumpet, under which were written these lines:

"Whoever can this trumpet blow,
Shall cause the giant's overthrow.

As soon as Jack had read this, he seized the trumpet and blew a shrill blast, which made the gates fly open and the very castle itself tremble.

16. The giant and the wizard now knew their wicked course was at an end, and they stood biting their thumbs and shaking with fear. Jack, with his sword of sharpness, soon killed the giant, and the wizard was then carried away by a whirlwind; and every knight and beautiful lady who had been changed into birds

and beasts returned to their proper shapes. The castle vanished like smoke, and the head of the giant Gantus was then sent to King Arthur.

17. The knights and ladies rested that night at the home of the old hermit, and next day they set out for the Court. Jack then went up to the King, and gave his Majesty an account of all his fierce battles. Jack's fame had spread through the whole country, and at the King's desire the duke gave him his daughter in marriage, to the joy of all his kingdom. After this the King gave him a large estate, on which he and his lady lived the rest of their days in joy and contentment.

Cinderella or the Little Glass Slipper.

1. Once there was a gentleman who married, for his second wife, the proudest and most haughty woman that was ever seen. She had, by a former husband, two daughters who were, indeed, exactly like her in all things. He had likewise, by another wife, a young daughter, but of the greatest goodness and sweetness of temper, which she took from her mother, who was the best creature in the world.

2. No sooner was the wedding over but the stepmother began to show herself in her true temper. She could not bear the good qualities of this pretty girl, and the less, because they made her daughters appear the more odious. She employed her in the meanest work of the house; she scoured the tables, dishes, etc., and scrubbed madam's chamber, and those of Misses, her daughters; she lay up in a sorry garret, upon a wretched straw bed, while her sisters lay in fine rooms, with floors all inlaid, upon beds of the very newest fashion, and where they had looking-glasses so large that they might see themselves at their full length from head to foot.

3. The poor girl bore all patiently, and dared not tell her father who would have sent her away; for his wife governed him entirely. When she had done her work, she used to go into the chimney corner, and sit down among cinders and ashes, which made her commonly be called Cinderwench; but the younger, who

was not so rude and uncivil as the elder, called her Cinderella. However, Cinderella, notwithstanding her mean apparel, was a hundred times handsomer than her sisters, though they were always dressed very richly.

4. It happened that the King's son gave a ball, and invited all persons of fashion to it. Our young Misses were also invited, for they cut a very grand figure among the quality. They were mightily delighted at this invitation, and wonderfully busy in choosing out such gowns, petticoats, and headclothes as might become them. This was a new trouble to Cinderella; for it was she who ironed her sister's linen, and plaited their ruffles; they talked all day long of nothing but how they should be dressed. "For my part," said the elder, "I will wear my red-velvet suit with French trimming."

5. "And I," said the younger, "shall have my usual petticoat; but then, to make amends for that, I will put on my gold-flowered mantle, and my diamond belt, which is far from being the most ordinary one in the world.

Cinderella was likewise called up to them to be consulted in all these matters, for she had excellent taste, and advised them always for the best, nay, and offered her services to dress their heads, which they were very willing she should do. As she was doing this, they said to her:

"Cinderella, would you not be glad to go to the ball?"

"Alas!" said she, "you only mock me; it is not for such as I am to go thither."

"Thou art in the right of it," replied they; "it would make the people laugh to see a Cinderwench at a ball."

6. Anyone but Cinderella would have dressed their heads awry, but she was very good, and dressed them perfectly well. They were almost two days without eating, so much were they transported with joy. They broke above a dozen of laces in trying to be laced up close, that they might have a fine slender shape, and they were always at their looking-glass. At last the happy day came; they went to Court, and Cinderella followed them with her eyes as long as she could, and when she had lost sight of them, she fell a crying.

7. Her godmother, who saw her all in tears, asked her what was the matter.

"I wish I could—I wish I could—;" she was not able to speak the rest, being interrupted by her tears and sobbing.

This godmother of hers, who was a fairy, said to her, "Thou wishest thou couldst go to the ball; is it not so?"

"Y-es," cried Cinderella with a great sigh.

"Well," said her godmother, be but a good girl, and I will contrive that thou shalt go." Then she took her into her chamber, and said, "Run into the garden and bring me a pumpkin."

8. Cinderella went to gather the finest she could get, and brought it to her godmother, not being able to imagine how this pumpkin could make her go to the ball. Her godmother scooped out all the inside of it, having left nothing but the rind; which done, she struck it with her wand, and the pumpkin was instantly turned into a fine coach, gilded all over with gold.

9. She then went to look into her mouse trap, where she found six mice, all alive, and ordered Cinderella to lift up a little the trap door, when, giving each mouse, as it went out, a little tap with her wand, the mouse was at that moment turned into a fine horse, which altogether made a very fine set of six horses of beautiful mouse-colored dapple-gray. Being at a loss for a coachman—"I will go and see," says Cinderella, "if there is never a rat in the rat trap—we may make a coachman of him."

"Thou art in the right," replied her godmother, "go and look."

10. Cinderella brought the trap to her and in it there were three huge rats. The fairy made choice of one of the three which had the largest beard, and, having touched him with her wand, he was turned into a fat, jolly coachman, who had the smartest whiskers eyes ever beheld. After that, she said to her:

"Go again into the garden, and you will find six lizards behind the watering pot. Bring them to me."

11. She had no sooner done so, than her godmother turned them into six footmen, who skipped up behind the coach, with their liveries all decked with gold and silver, and clung as close behind each other as if they had done nothing else their whole lives. The fairy then said to Cinderella:

“Well, you see here a carriage fit to go to the ball with; are you not pleased with it?”

“Oh! yes,” cried she, “but must I go thither as I am, in these nasty rags?”

12. Her godmother only just touched her with her wand, and, at the same instant, her clothes were turned into cloth of gold and silver, all beset with jewels. This done, she gave her a pair of glass slippers, the prettiest in the whole world. Being thus decked out, she got up into her coach; but her godmother, above all things, commanded her not to stay till after midnight, telling her, at the same time, if she stayed one moment longer, the coach would be a pumpkin again, her coachman a rat, her horses mice, her footmen lizards, and her clothes become just as they were before.

13. She promised her godmother she would not fail of leaving the ball before midnight; and then away she drove, scarce able to contain herself for joy. The King's son, who was told that a great princess, whom nobody knew, was come, ran out to receive her; he gave her his hand as she alighted out of the coach, and led her into the hall among all the company. There was, at once, a profound silence. They left off dancing, and the violins ceased to play, so attentive was every one to contemplate the great beauty of the unknown new comer. Nothing was then heard but a confused noise of:

“Ah! how handsome she is! Ah! how handsome she is!”

14. The King himself, old as he was, could not help watching her, and telling the Queen softly that it was a long time since he had seen so beautiful and lovely a creature.

All the ladies were busied in looking at her clothes and head-dress, that they might have some made next day, after the same pattern, provided they could meet with such fine materials and as able hands to make them.

15. The King's son conducted her to the seat of honor, and afterwards took her out to dance with him; she danced so very gracefully that they all more and more admired her. A fine supper was served up, of which the young prince ate not a morsel, so intently was he busied in gazing on her.

She went and sat down by her sisters, showing them a thousand kind attentions, giving them part of the oranges and citrons

which the Prince had presented her with, which very much surprised them, for they did not know her. While Cinderella was thus amusing her sisters, she heard the clock striking eleven and three-quarters, whereupon she bowed to the company and hastened away as fast as she could.

16. Being got home, she ran to seek out her godmother, and, after having thanked her, she said that she could not but heartily wish she might go next day to the ball, because the King's son had desired her.

As she was eagerly telling her godmother whatever had passed at the ball, her two sisters knocked at the door, which Cinderella ran and opened.

"How long you have stayed," cried she, gaping, rubbing her eyes and stretching herself as if she had just waked out of her sleep; she had not, however, any desire to sleep since they went from home.

17. "If thou hadst been at the ball," said one of her sisters, "thou wouldst not have been tired with it. There came thither the finest princess, the most beautiful ever was seen with mortal eyes; she showed us a thousand attentions, and gave us oranges and citrons."

Cinderella seemed very indifferent in the matter; indeed, she asked them the name of that princess; but they told her they did not know it, and that the King's son was very uneasy on her account, and would give all the world to know who she was. At this Cinderella smiling, replied:

18. "She must, then, be very beautiful indeed; how happy you have been! Could I not see her? Ah! dear Miss Lottie do lend me your yellow suit of clothes which you wear every day."

"Yes, to be sure!" cried Miss Lottie; "lend my clothes to such a dirty Cinderwench as thou art! I should be a fool!"

Cinderella, indeed, expected well such an answer, and was very glad of the refusal; for she would have been sadly put to it if her sister had lent her what she asked for jestingly.

19. The next day the two sisters were at the ball, and so was Cinderella, but dressed more grandly than before. The King's son was always by her, and never ceased his compliments and kind speeches to her; to whom all this was so far from being tiresome

that she quite forgot what her godmother had commanded; so that she, at last, counted the clock striking twelve when she took it to be no more than eleven; she then rose up and fled, as nimble as a deer. The Prince followed, but could not overtake her. She left behind one of her glass slippers, which the Prince took up most carefully. She got home, but quite out of breath, and in her nasty old clothes, having nothing left her of all her finery but one of the little slippers, mate to that she dropped. The guards at the palace gate were asked:

20. If they had not seen a princess go out.

Who said: They had seen nobody go out but a young girl, very meanly dressed, and who had more the air of a poor country wench than a gentlewoman.

When the two sisters returned from the ball, Cinderella asked them: If they had been well diverted, and if the fine lady had been there.

21. They told her: Yes, but that she hurried away when it struck twelve, and with so much haste that she dropped one of her little glass slippers, the prettiest in the world, which the King's son had taken up; that he had done nothing but look at her all the time at the ball, and that most certainly he was very much in love with the beautiful person who owned the glass slipper.

22. What they said was very true; for a few days after, the King's son caused it to be proclaimed, by sound of trumpet, that he would marry her whose foot this slipper would just fit. They whom he employed began to try it upon the princesses, then all in the Court, but in vain; it was brought to the two sisters, who did all they possibly could to thrust their foot into the slipper, but they could not effect it. Cinderella, who saw all this, and knew her slipper, said to them, laughing:

"Let me see if it will not fit me."

23. Her sisters burst out a laughing, and began to banter her. The gentleman who was sent to try the slipper looked earnestly at Cinderella, and, finding her very handsome, said: It was but just that she should try, and that he had orders to let everyone make trial.

He obliged Cinderella to sit down, and, putting the slipper to her foot, he found it went on very easily, and fitted her as if it had

been made of wax. The astonishment her two sisters were in was very great, but still greater when Cinderella pulled out of her pocket the other slipper, and put it on her foot. Thereupon, in came her godmother, who, having touched with her wand Cinderella's clothes, made them richer and more magnificent than any of those she had before.

24. And now her two sisters found her to be that fine, beautiful lady whom they had seen at the ball. They threw themselves at her feet to beg pardon for all the illtreatment they had made her undergo. Cinderella took them up, and, as she embraced them, cried:

That she forgave them with all her heart, and desired them always to love her.

25. She was conducted to the young Prince, dressed as she was; he thought her more charming than ever, and, a few days after, married her. Cinderella, who was no less good than beautiful, gave her two sisters lodgings in the palace, and that same day matched them with two great lords of the Court.

Mercury and the Woodman. (Aesop).

A man, felling a tree on the bank of a river, by chance let his ax slip from his hand. It dropped into the water and sank to the bottom. In great distress at the loss of the tool, he sat down on the bank and grieved bitterly. Mercury appeared, and asked him what was the matter. Having heard the man's story, he dived to the bottom of the river, and, bringing up a golden ax, offered it to him. The Woodman refused to take it, saying it was not his. Mercury then dived the second time, and brought up a silver one. This also the man refused, saying that that, too, was none of his. He dived a third time, and brought up the ax that the man had lost. This the poor man took, with great joy and thankfulness. Mercury was so pleased with his honesty that he gave him the other two into the bargain. The Woodman told this adventure to his mates, and one of them at once set off for the river, and let his ax fall in on purpose. He then began to lament his loss with a loud voice. Mercury appeared, as before, and demanded the cause of his grief. After hearing the man's account, he dived and brought

up the golden ax, and asked him if that was his. Transported at the sight of the precious metal, the fellow eagerly answered that it was, and greedily attempted to snatch it. The god, detecting his falsehood and impudence, not only declined to give it to him, but refused to let him have his own again.

Snow White and Red Rose.

1. Once upon a time there lived in a lonely cottage, surrounded by a garden, a poor widow. In the garden grew two rosetrees, one of which bore white roses, the other red. Now, the widow had two daughters, who so much resembled the rosebushes that she gave to one the name of Snow-white, and to the other Red-rose. These two children were the best, the most obedient, and the most industrious children in the world; yet they differed in some respects. Snow-white was quiet and gentle, Red-rose fond of running about the fields and meadows in search of flowers and butterflies.

2. Snow-white would often stay at home with her mother, help her with the housework, and then read to her after it was done. The two children were very fond of each other, and whenever they walked out together they would hold each other's hand, and when Snow-white would say, "We will never leave each other," her sister would reply, "No, never, as long as we live." The mother encouraged this; she would often say, "Whatever nice things are given to either of you must be shared with the other;" and the sisters always did so.

3. They frequently rambled together alone in the woods to gather berries; but not a creature ever did them any harm, although wild animals often passed them; they seemed to have such confidence in the sisters that they were quite friendly with them. The little rabbits would eat cabbage leaves out of their hands, the deer would graze by their side, the stag bound merrily near, while the birds would remain sitting and singing on the branches. No danger ever threatened them, even if they stayed in the forest till late, or after nightfall. They would lie down on a mossy bed and sleep safely till morning, and their mother knew there was no cause for fear.

4. Once, when they had remained in the wood all night, they did not awake till the rising sun had reddened the eastern sky, and as they opened their eyes, they saw near them a beautiful little child, whose clothes were white and shining. When he saw they were awake he looked kindly at them, and without a word, vanished from their sight. On rising they found that they had been sleeping on the edge of a steep rock, down which they must have fallen had they moved in the dark. When they told their mother, she said it must have been one of the guardian angels who watch over good children.

5. Snow-white and Red-rose kept their mother's cottage so neat and clean that it was quite a pleasure to look at it. Every morning in summer, Red-rose took care always to place a bouquet of fresh flowers by her mother's bed, in which was a flower from each of the rosetrees. In winter Snow-white lighted the fire, filled the kettle, and placed it over the bright blaze, where it shone and glittered like gold; for it was of burnished copper, and was always kept bright and polished. In the evening, when the snow was falling, and the door closed and locked, they would seat themselves round the fire, in the bright, snug little room and knit busily, while their mother would put on her spectacles, and read to them out of the Good Book.

6. One evening they were sitting in this peaceful happiness, with a pet lamb sleeping on the hearth near them, and above them, on a perch, a white dove with its head behind its wing. Presently there came a knock at the door, and the mother said, "Red-rose, open it quickly; no doubt some poor traveler, lost in the snow, wants shelter." Red-rose hastened to obey; but on opening the door, instead of the poor man she expected to see, a great bear pushed his great black head in.

7. Red-rose screamed aloud and started back; the lamb bleated; the dove flew wildly about the room; and Snow-white hid herself behind her mother's bed. The bear, however, began to speak very gently. "Do not fear," he said; "I will not hurt you. I only want to warm myself by your fire, for I am half frozen." "Poor bear!" said the mother. "Come in and lie down by the fire if you want to; but take care not to burn your furry coat." Then she called out, "Snow-white and Red-rose, come here. The bear is quite gentle; he will do you no harm."

8. So they both came near to the fire; and by degrees the dove and the lamb got over their fright and settled themselves to sleep. Presently the bear said, "Dear children, will you sweep off the snow from my fur?" So they got the broom and cleaned the bear's skin till it looked quite smooth, and then he stretched himself at full length before the fire, grunting now and then to show how contented and comfortable he felt. In a very short time they lost all fear of their unexpected guest, and even began to play with him.

9. They jumped upon his back, rolled him over on the floor and tapped him with a hazel twig, pulled his thick fur, and when he growled they only laughed. The bear allowed them to do as they liked, only saying, when they were too rough with him, "Leave me my life, dear children, and don't quite kill your old sweetheart." When bedtime came the mother said to him, "You can stay here all night by the fire if you like. I will not turn you out in this dreadful weather, and here you will at least be sheltered from the cold."

10. In the morning, when they all rose, the two children let him out, and he trotted away over the snow into the wood. After that he came each evening at the same hour, laid himself on the hearth, and allowed the children to play with him just as they pleased. They became so used to his visits that no one thought of bolting the door till his black muzzle was pushed in. The winter passed, and spring was again covering the meadows and forest trees with her robe of green, when one morning the bear said to Snow-white, "I am going away now during the summer, and you will not see me again till the end of autumn."

11. "Where are you going, dear bear?" asked Snow-white. "I must go to the forest," he replied, "to hide my treasures from those wicked dwarfs. In winter these treasures are safe under the frozen earth, but now, when the sun has warmed and softened the ground, it is easy for them to break it and dig up what I have buried, and when once anything valuable is in their hands it is not easy to recover it. They will take care that it does not see daylight again."

12. Snow-white felt quite sorrowful when the bear said good-by, but as he passed out of the door the latch caught his fur and

tore a little piece off. Snow-white thought she saw something glittering like gold under the skin, but she was not sure, for the bear trotted away very quickly and was soon lost to sight among the trees. Sometime after this the mother sent the children into the forest to gather brushwood, and they found a large tree which had fallen to the ground. As they stood looking at it, they saw something jumping up and down on the other side of the trunk, but they could not think what it was till they went nearer.

13. Then they saw a little dwarf with a shriveled face, whose long white beard had been caught in a cleft of the tree. The dwarf was jumping about like a puppy at the end of a string, but he could not get free. He glared at the children with his red fiery eyes, and cried:

“Why are you standing there, staring, instead of offering to assist me?”

“Poor little man,” said Red-rose. “How did you do this?”

14. “You stupid goose!” he replied angrily, “I wanted to split up the tree that I might get some shavings for our cooking. A great coal fire burns up our little dinners and suppers; we don’t cram ourselves with food as your greedy people do! I drove my wedge into the tree and it seemed all right, but the horrid thing was so slippery that it sprang out again suddenly, and the tree closed so quickly that it caught my long white beard, and now holds it so fast that I cannot extricate it. See how the white milk-faced creatures laugh!” he shouted. “Oh, but you are ugly!”

15. Notwithstanding his spiteful words and looks, the children wished to help him, and they went up to him and tried to pull out his beard, but all to no purpose.

“I will run home and call somebody,” said Red-rose.

“What!” snarled the dwarf, “send for more people! Why, there are two too many here already, you sheep-headed madcap!”

“Don’t be impatient,” said Snow-white; “I think we can manage to release you.”

16. She took her scissors out of her pocket as she spoke and cut the dwarf’s beard off close to the trunk of the tree. No sooner was he at liberty than he caught hold of a bag full of gold which was lying among the roots, grumbling all the time about the dreadful children who had cut off his magnificent beard, a loss which

nothing could repay him. He then swung the bag across his shoulders and went away without one word of thanks to the children for helping him.

17. Some time after this, Snow-white and Red-rose went out one day to catch fish. As they sat fishing on the banks of the stream they saw something like a large grasshopper jumping about as if it were going to jump into the water. They ran forward, and saw the dwarf.

“What are you doing here?” asked Red-rose. “Why do you wish to jump into the water?”

“Do you think I am such a fool as that?” he cried. “Don’t you see how this dreadful fish is dragging me?”

18. The little man had been angling, but, sad for him, the wind caught his beard and entangled it in the line, so that when a large fish came up and swallowed the bait he had not strength to extricate himself, and the fish, in its efforts to escape, was dragging the dwarf into the water. He held tightly by the reeds and rushes that grew on the bank, but with very little use, and the children were only just in time to save him from being dragged in by the fish. They both pulled him back with all their might, but as long as the beard remained entangled in the line, their efforts were useless, and they could not disentangle it. There remained no other means of saving him than by cutting off his beard, and this time so much of it that only a short piece remained.

19. Although by so doing they saved his life, the dwarf was in a dreadful rage; he screamed out, “Is it your custom, you wretches! to disfigure people’s faces in this way? Not satisfied with cutting off a large piece the other day, you must now deprive me of nearly all! I dare not show myself such a fright as this. I wish you were obliged to run till you had lost the soles off your shoes!”

He lifted a bag of pearls which he had hidden among the rushes, and throwing it upon his shoulder without another word, slunk away and disappeared behind a stone.

20. It happened on another occasion, that the mother of the two maidens sent them to the town to purchase needles, thread, and ribbon. Their way lay across a heath, on which, here and there, great rocks lay scattered. Presently they saw a large bird hovering over a certain spot on the heath, till at last he pounced

down suddenly to the earth, and at the same moment they heard terrible cries and piteous lamentations close to them. The children ran to the place, and saw with great alarm that a large eagle had gotten their old acquaintance the dwarf into his talons, and was carrying him away.

21. The good-natured children did all they could—they held the little man fast to pull him back, and struggled so fiercely with the eagle that at last the latter gave up his prey and set him free. But he had no sooner recovered from his fright than the ungrateful little wretch exclaimed: “What do you mean by catching hold of me so roughly? You clawed at my new coat till it is nearly torn off my back—awkward little clowns that you are!”

22. Then he took up his sack of precious stones and slipped away among the rocks. The maidens were accustomed to his ingratitude, and did not care for it. So they went on their way to the town and made their purchases. On their return, while crossing the heath they came suddenly again upon the dwarf, who had emptied his sack of precious stones in a quiet corner, not supposing that any one would pass at such a late hour. The evening sun shone brightly on the glittering jewels, which sparkled and flashed out such beautiful colors in the golden light that the children stood and gazed in silent admiration.

23. “What are you standing there gaping at?” asked the dwarf, his usually gray face quite red with rage. He was going on with his spiteful words when suddenly a terrible growl was heard, and a large black bear rushed out of the thicket. The dwarf sprang up in a great fright, but he could not escape to a place of concealment, for the bear stood just in his way. Then he cried out piteously in his agony:

“Dear Mr. Bear, do spare my life! I will give you up all my treasures, and those jewels that you see lying there, if you will only grant me my life. Such a weak little creature as I am would scarcely be a mouthful for you. See, there are two nice little tender bits—those two wicked maidens. They are as fat as young quails. Just eat them instead of me.”

24. But the bear paid no attention to his complaints. Without a word he lifted up his left forepaw, and with one stroke laid the

ugly, wicked wretch dead on the ground. The maidens in a fright were running away; but the bear called to them:

"Snow-white, Red-rose, don't be afraid! Wait; and I will go home with you."

They instantly knew his voice, and stood still till he came up to them; but as he approached, what was their astonishment to see the bearskin suddenly fall off, and instead of a rough bear there stood before them a handsome young man with beautiful gold-trimmed clothes.

25. "I am a King's son," he said; "and that wicked dwarf, after robbing me of all I possessed, changed me into a bear; and I have been obliged to wander about the woods, watching my treasures, but not able to catch the dwarf and kill him till to-day. His death has set me free, and he has met with a well-deserved fate."

Not many years after this Snow-white was married to the prince, and Red-rose to his brother, with whom he had shared the riches and treasures which the dwarf had stolen and had concealed in his den till the prince recovered them at his death.

26. There was great joy in the village when these weddings took place, and Snow-white and Red-rose sent for their mother, who lived for many years in great happiness with her children. The two rosetrees were brought to the castle and planted in the garden near the windows of the two sisters; and every year they bore the same beautiful red and white roses as they had done in the cottage garden at home.

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